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THE PARTY OF THE P



When a 14-year-old is having sex



All you need to know about Reggie Kray



blen his top Answer in The Box, by Pandora. Starts today

After Dolly,

cloned calf

By Charles Arthur

FARM animals will soon be

providing more useful things

than meat and milk - with

transgenic sheep and cows pro-

A serious international com-

mercial battle is in the offing as

companies compete to exploit

the possibilities and the latest

part of the struggle takes the

form of a calf - cloned using the technique that helped produce

By cloning an embryo cell, sci-

entists in the US have created

Mr Jefferson – a 98lb (44.5kg)

Born on 16 February, Mr Jef-

ferson (named after President

Jefferson, as it was born on Pres-

idents' Day) was produced by

the American subsidiary of PPL

Therapeutics, which has been

closely involved with the Roslin

Institute near Edinburgh, where

mercial step forward in "pharm-

ing" - the use of farm animals

to produce commercially valu-

able drugs. That will be done by

adding human or other genes to

such "transgenic" sheep which

produce a protein in their milk

used to fight cystic fibrosis in hu-

mans, and last year it produced

"Polly" - a transgenic cloned

sheep carrying the human gene

for the production of the blood-

clotting agent Factor IX, which

could help haemophiliacs.

PPL already has a flock of

the animals.

The latest work is not in it-

Dolly was born in 1996.

ducing valuable drugs.

Dolly the sheep.

Holstein.

Science Editor

here comes a

But two other American

companies also claim to have

cloned cattle. Last August, sci-

entists at ABS Global Inc. in Wisconsin announced that they

had been first to clone a calf -

a Holstein named Gene. And

last month scientists announced

in Boston that they had devel-

oped a technique for producing customised cloned calves.

Steven Stice and James Rohl of

Advanced Cell Technology, told

a conference that 13 cows are

waiting to give birth to cloned

Global or ACT knows what

technique they used. The Roslin Institute has applied for patents

around the world on its "nuclear

transfer" technique - moving the

DNA from a cell into an egg cell

from which the nucleus bas

have used the same technique,

the Roslin Institute may have a

prior claim, and be able to

nique. The main potential of

cloned cattle is to produce large

quantities of human serum al-

bumin, used mainly in trauma

patients. At present hospitals

adult cells compared to embryo

cells has led some scientists to

claim that Dolly was the result

of a embryo cell in the sheep's

blood. But Dr Harry Griffin a

senior scientist at the Institute

said yesterday the chances of

this having happened were "one

in several million".

The difficulty of cloning

rely on donated blood.

So far, only PPL has been li-

claim licensing fees.

If ABS Global and ACT

been removed.

self a scientific breakthrough. censed by the Roslin Institute

But it marks an important com- to use the nuclear transfer tech-

calves at a ranch in Texas. But nobody outside ABS

COMMENT, PAGE

FNI INDEPE

Tuesday 24 February 1998 45p No 3,542

Massive blast hits hopes for Ulster

By Da.id McKittrick Ireland Correspondent

The pressures and strains on the Northern Ireland peace process grew yesterday with another major republican bombing. The attack prompted warnings that an important loyalist group's ceasefire was in danger.

The bombing meant that a session of multi-party talks was once again eclipsed by events on the streets, demonstrating that groups opposed to the process are intent on using violence to sabotage it.

while Unionists immed claimed that the IRA must have been responsible for the bombing, the authorities said they would await police reports before attributing biame. The bomb(s were clearly aiming for maximum political and communal dis- dock." ruption in choosing as their target the Co Armagh town of Portadown, which is sometimes called the Orange citadel.

It is both the home town of the Loydist Volunteer Force, currently the nost violent of the Protestant paramilitary groups, and the central town of Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble's Upper Bann constituency. It is also the venue for the annual Drumcree marching confrontation in July.

It is thus one of the most provocaive targets that republicans could hoose to bomb. Mark Fulton, a close ssociate of assassinated LVF leader Billy Wright, said: "The people in Portadown are incensed. I would say loyalists will not be amused at this."

Warnings had been given and no one was injured when a large car-bomb was set off in the centre of the town, wrecking many business premises and Jamaging buildings over a wide area.

A number of people had narrow escapes within minutes of the bomb going off. A pregnant woman said: "We all got out in good time but it was very frightening. I'm trying to keep calm because of the baby. We just saw this massive explosion in the building up there - it seemed like the whole thing just

went up." The attack brought a warning from Billy Hutchinson of the Progressive Unionist Party which speaks for the Ulster Volunteer Force. The UVF, while no saints, have been the quietest of the loyalist paramilitary outfits and the a meeting with him.

most supportive of the peace process. Mr Hutchinson said: "The loyalist ceasefire is under threat if these attacks continue. Political dialogue is not working. Time is running out. I think the North Armagh brigade of the Pro-

visional IRA are at their work." His allegation was echoed by ther Unionists, including Mr Trimble who told reporters: "I have no doubt that this is the work of the IRA. We are seeing Sinn Fein-IRA venting its splet'n because it has been caught out. It has been exposed inside the process and outside the process. There can be no question now of their returning to the

He strongly appealed to loyalists not to retaliate, adding: "The spotlight is on the republican movement. They're in the dock, there's no reason why any loyalist should go and join them in the

The security forces have yet to bear out the allegation of IRA involvement. Unionist politicians have often made similar claims in the wake of other bombings which have turned out to be the work of the Continuity Army Council, who are renegade breakaway republicans opposed to the IRA.

This was the case following last Friday's car-bomb in the town of Moira, Co Down, which security sources now attribute to the CAC rather than the IRA. But the frequent Unionist claims that CAC equals IRA mean that many members of the public, especially on. the Unionist side, find it difficult to dif.

The confusion is of some political use to Unionists who are campaigning to have Sinn Fein excluded from the multi-party talks not just for two weeks but for good.

The LVF, meanwhile, was also active yesterday, leaving an explosive device outside a border police station in the Irish Republic. The device, which was dealt with by army explosives experts, contained two five-gallon drums of petrol, a biscuit tin of 2.5 kilograms of commercial explosive, a homemade timing unit and detonators, as well as 40 rounds of pistol ammunitig.f

Ahern, is to meet both Tony Blair and Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams for talks. Mr Blair has not yet said whether he will react to Sinu Fein's request for



were removed from the 'failing' school over Christmas, but after Richard was bullied at his new school, his parents insisted he should be taught again at Potter Heigham; Story, page 2 Photograph: David Rose

Redecoration? It was not my idea, says Lord Irvine

By Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

THE Lord Chancellor yesterday insisted

he had no responsibility for the £650,000 restoration of his grace and favour residence in the House of Lords.

In an attempt to restore some of the shine to his reputation as England's most senior law officer, and end the This week, the Taoiseach. Bertie controversy, he issued a statement saying responsibility rested with three committees for the choice of wallpaper, furniture and fittings, which include a new lavatory. It made clear he had not been responsible for the de-

beds at £8,000 each, or Pugin-style fur-

niture to fill the apartment. The move, which Downing Street had also hoped would stop the damage. did nothing to stop the flow of questions from Lord Irvine's Tory tormenters and the press in a campaign which the Government fears is verging on a vendetta. The Tories said the statement raised

more questions than it answered. The statement said the decision to and finance chaired by Lord Boston of Faversham, 67, a Labour peer and

cision to use wallpaper costing £59,211, House of Lords Offices Committee

and the whole House of Lords. "The decision to refurbish the Residence was made by the relevant House authorities and not by the Lord Chancellor," said Lord Irvine, who also denied earlier suggestions that the restoration had been inherited from

the previous Tory government. An aide said: "Once the decision was made to refurbish the Residence. it had to be done to House of Lords refurbish his apartment had been tak- standards. That is Pugin. It has to be en by the Lords committees for works done to that quality." However, one Whitehall source said Lady Irvine may well have been consulted by her husband on which wallpaper to have.

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Once again, it's peace in our time...for now

By Robert Fisk in Baghdad

IT WAS peace in our time yet again. There were UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, and the Iraqi deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz, trading compliments in the aftermath of their latest exercise in crisis-resolution: an agreement that purportedly gives UN weapons inspectors full access to all military sites in Iraq in return for the foreseeable end of economic sanctions.

An old monochrome photograph of Saddam Hussein glowered down on the pair at their Baghdad press conference and within hours the Iraqi

ing of his ruling command council and declaring "a day of victory for the Iraqi people."

"Constructive and successful," Mr Annan called his discussions. "Constructive. objective and intensive" was how a beaming Mr Aziz described them. One could not but be reminded of a beaming British prime minister at Heston aerodrome six decades ago. But who was playing Mr Chamberlain? Mr Annan or Mr

There was talk about "balance" in the terms of the settlement that has supposedly reined in the dogs of war, although Mr Annan refused to give us any details. So did Mr

President was chairing a meet- Aziz, who cut a sharp figure in his dark green military fatigues beside the grey-suited and white-bearded Mr Annan. The latter hoped that sanctions would be lifted soon - something that is clearly not in the diary of Madeleine Albright - and Mr Aziz beamed approvingly.

Indeed the US Secretary of State was back on CNN yesterday, repeating her assertion that if the UN settlement was unsatisfactory to the United States, her country would feel free to "pursue its national interests" in the conflict. On the same basis, of course, Iraq might re-pursue its "national interests in Kuwait, although this was not a name that crossed



Annan: Was he playing Mr Chamberlain?

any lips at the smoke-filled press conference in Baghdad yesterday. "I did not seek encouragement or otherwise

about the status of the discussion and where we are to end up. She did have some questions which I addressed and I will be talking further when I return to New York."

Asked if he had given the Iraqis any deadlines, Mr Annan put on a look of pained dignity. "I did not come here with ultimatums (sic) and the Secretary-General of the United Nations doesn't speak in these words." More modestly, he said that "a lot will depend on what happens when I get to New York - after the Security Council discusses my report, I would hope this would resolve the

[from Mrs Albright]," Mr An-nan informed us. "We did talk" no time limits or deadlines in the agreement." The UN, he added, should

"be sensitive to the concerns of the dignity, security and sovereignty of Iraq." Indeed it will, if Mr Annan has anything to do with it.

Iraq crisis, pages 10, 11 Letters, page 16 Patrick Cockburn, page 17



INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 . CROSSWORDS, P28 AND EYE P10 . TODAY'S TELEVISION, EYE P12 . FULL CONTENTS, P2

Bullies, 13, jailed for protection racket

By Andrew Buncombe

TWO playground bullies who ran a protection racket which terrorised pupils were yesterday locked up.

Sheffield Crown Court heard that the two teenagers, both aged 13, led a "gang of young thugs" who intimidated, abused and bullied other more vulnerable pupils into handing over lunch money and bus fares. The self-styled Gang on the Wall was broken up when they were arrested.

Yesterday Judge David Bentley, who ordered the boys to be detained, told them: "Bullying is always unpleasant for the young victims and I am quite satisfied that there was dreadful bullying going on. There was a protection racket being run by a gang of

The court heard that the boys, who cannot be named for legal reasons, ran the protection racket at a comprehensive school in Doncaster, South Yorkshire. The school also cannot be identified.

Philip Bingham, for the prosecution, said police began their investigation after a complaint by a boy whose asthma had been made worse by persistent bullying.

"As it progressed it became clear that the bullying of that particular young man was far from being isolated," he said.

"As pupils were arriving at or leaving school they would be approached often by only one member of this gang, sometimes more than one. They would then be frightened into handing over their pocket

money, bus fares or dinner money.

"People realised they really had no choice but to hand over their money when approached. There was clearly an atmosphere of fear created in the school."

Another victim was threatened with a knife by one gang member and forced to hand over cash.

Mr Bingham said parents had tried to tell the school authorities but it appeared no action had been taken to stop the gang. One of the boys, now 14, was "unconcerned" when he was interviewed by police, he added. The boy's barrister, Tony Cranfield, said the teenager was excluded from school in November 1996 and had only been involved for between six to eight weeks. He had since changed his attitude towards bullying.

Roger Thomas, representing the other boy, who is now aged 15, said the boys were not gang leaders but were rather younger members of a bigger group.

The 15-year-old, who had earlier ad-

mitted two counts of demanding money with menaces and five of robbery, was ordered to be detained for one year. The other boy, who admitted four robberies, and was detained for nine months.

The gang was charged with 39 offences, including robbery, blackmail, assault and theft. Other members had been dealt with at another court and some had received custodial sentences.

The acting head teacher at the school was at court but declined to comment.

Hague dodges stock response

By Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

William Hague, one of the few men to shock the Federation of Conservative Students by being more right-wing on crime than they were, was facing ignominious exposure last night as the husband of a tax-disc

The leader of the law-andorder party, who told the student group in 1986 that criminals should be put in the stocks, was forced to put his hands up to the inadvertent of-

While it was Flion who accidentally let the road tax on her Range Rover get two weeks out of date, it was her husband who put her on the wrong side of the law by leaving it in a public car

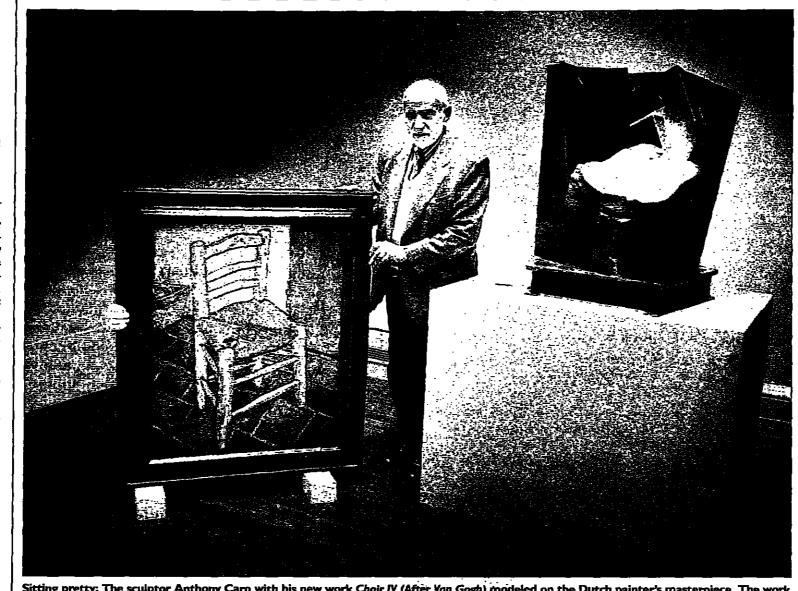
The oversight might not have been discovered had it not been compounded by a further crime - the theft of the vehicle from Teesside Airport, where Mr Hague had left it on February 15.

The incident ended when the blue Range Rover, bought by Ms Jenkins last August, was discovered by police two days later, abandoned 30 miles away in Redcar, Cleveland.

They were unable to trace ownership of the vehicle to Ms did not discover the theft until February 21, when he returned to pick it up.

A statement from Conservative Central Office on the issue last night was terse: "The tax-disc lapse was an oversight which has been rectified today." it said.

Mr Hague has been reported to be in favour of bringing back the birch for more serious offenders as well as the stocks for minor miscreants, presumably such as himself. He also believes in capital punishment, though it is presumed that, despite his embarrassment, he still does not rank Range Rover thieves in this category.



Sitting pretty: The sculptor Anthony Caro with his new work Chair IV (After Van Gogh) modeled on the Dutch painter's masterpiece. The work will form part of an exhibition called Caro at the National Gallery: Sculpture from Painting, which begins tomorrow

School reopens for its one and only pupil

A PRIMARY school in Norfolk may have to stay open to teach just one child at a cost of £3,200 a month, it was revealed yes-

Richard Marlin's parents insist that the five-year-old be taught at the school which was left empty when parents removed all their children after inspectors said it was "failing".

The boy's parents were among those who removed children from the village school in Potter Heigham, in the Norfolk Broads, over Christmas. But they said Richard was bullied when he transferred to another school in the neigh-

couring village of Catheid. The local education authority is legally obliged to teach Richard in the school if his parents want him to go and there is a place – which there is, as the school was never formally

closed. The school reopened yesterday after the half-term holiday and a supply teacher taught Richard, under the supervision

of a head teacher. The Marlins now plan to keep their son at the school for

as long as possible. Norfolk County Council believes it is bad for Richard's development for him to being taught on his own. It is also concerned that keeping the school

open will cost £39.000 a year. Richard spent his first day having an hour's English and an hour of maths. He practised painting in the afternoon and played football with the head teacher at break. "We will keep Richard at

Potters Heigham for as long as possible. For a five-year-old, hullying is not on," said Mrs Marlin. "He was getting pushed around and was not sleeping when he went to Catfield. He had become very quiet even though he is normally a chatty

Mrs Marlin said her son was bullied again - even though the school punished three boys who were picking on him.

'Richard is the sort of boy who thinks everybody is going to be friendly. He was getting scared to talk about what was happening and being bullied could have put him off school."

It was better for him to be on his own than to be picked on, she added.

She said she blamed the council for the situation as it had failed to sort out problems at Potter Heigham and this had caused parents to remove their children.

Tony Jackson, deputy director of Norfolk's education department, said: "It is a very curious situation.

"But our one concern must be about a five year-old child be-

ing in a school on his own. He said the council had already set aside a budget to run Potter Heigham although it would save the money if the school closed.

Councillors would discuss closing the school next month, he said, but it would take at least until September to complete the

Maureen Vaissiere, head teacher of Catfield School, said there had only been one incident of bullying, something that was not normally a problem at the school.

"The boys involved had been kept in during play times and made to write to Richard to apologise.

TOMORROW

NEWS

Revealed at last: what's going to be in Mandelson's Dome

THE EYE **GEOFFREY ROBERTSON QC:** I never said I was a radical on censorship and privacy



THE EYE **SEAN HUGHES:** Such fun being miserable

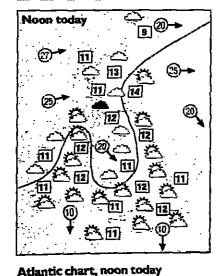
THE EYE

Meet the real Alan Partridge

CITY+

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FORECAST



Today's forecast

England and Wales will be mainly dry and mild, and although there will be some large areas of cloud it will brighten up with sunny spells developing in most places However, north-west England and north Wales will stay mostly cloudy and damp. Scottand and Northern Ireland will be rather cloudy and trees; with druzzly rain affecting north-western coasts and hills, but shellered eastern regions will see some sunand the highest temperatures

Outlook for the next few days Tomorrow will bring further rain and mist to the north: and west of Scotland, but most other parts of the UK will be dry with clouds and sunshme, the best of the Sunstrime in southern England, and it will be a very multiday. On Thursday a marked cold front will cross the UK from the north-west bringing a short spell of rain followed by a drop in temperature, and Enday still be colder everywhere with snow showers in Scotland

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Contract The Med Office: Callet changed at 50p per man at all learns (see 1950).

Out and about with AA Roadwatch

Cast 0336-401777 for the latest and noticed lightly news. Source: The Authorophile Association. Calls changed at 5th page

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WILLIAM **HARTSTON** WEATHER WISE

WHAT on earth is happening to our weather? January was some 30 per cent wetter and two degrees Celsius warmer than average: February has so far been one of the warmest since records hegan. In Bournemouth, people have been seen swimming in the sea, and there were traffic jams as people headed for the coast in unprecedented numbers over the St Valentine's week-

Now cast your mind back to driest for 200 years and the coldest for 10 years. February over the entire Earth can make

CONTENTS

Foreign

features

Health Leader & ietters

Visual Arts

though north-west England and southern Scotland had three times as much rain as usual. With the irrationality of

people who bet on lottery numbers that haven't been picked for a long time, we might have expected a particularly cold February - as though winter would gain revenge for its late arrival. But it basn't happened.

There are three theories to explain what's been going on. The simplest is to shrug it off as all within the bounds of normal fluctuations of weather. With every new broken record. however, that becomes more difficult to sustain. In Paris, for example, a new record February temperature of 17.4C was set a couple of weeks ago, a full 2.4C above the previous record. Such a dramatic increase demands explanation.

The second theory is global warming. The Earth is getting warmer because of all the greenhouse gases; so England is getting warmer too. Simple. But it's not so simple. The most extravagant predictions of global warming envisage a rise by only a few degrees in a century, and while a few degrees

19-23

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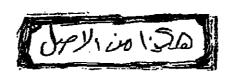
was generally mild and windy. a huge difference in specific tocations, no mechanism has verf. been suggested that would account for our balmy February weather this year. Indeed, there is a good argument that global warming would actually make Britain a colder place because of the Arctic melting it would

> Finally, and most likely, there is good old, blame-itfor-everything. El Nino, which has been warming up the waters of the Pacific and might be expected to have a strong, but as yet not understood, influence on the south-westerly winds that have been fighting off the easterlies and northerlies that so often seize us in their icy grip in February. On the other hand, global warming itself may be responsible for the terreity of this year's El Nino; or it could be that the current El Nino is no more than a random fluctuation worse than any other El Nino.

The extremes of 1998 will surely lead to an improvement in our understanding of global weather patterns. The question at the beginning of this piece ought not to have been "What on earth ..." but "What in the ocean" is happening to our



papers in the first half of 1997



Favourite gangster could make his greatest getaway

IN THE NEWS

REGGIE

KRAY

By Tim Hulse

IT was revealed yesterday that according to a confidential parole board report, the release from prison of Reg Kray now constitutes a "minimal risk" in the opinion of psychiatrists who have interviewed him.

Kray, 64, was sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum of 30 years in 1969 for the murder of Jack "The Hat" McVitie and taking into account time served be-

fore sentence, the 30 years are due to elapse in May. Disclosure of the report will provide further ammunition for those who have lobbied for some years

for his early release. In recent years Kray has shown himself to be far

from shy of publicity and some believe that it is only his continued fondness for the limelight that has kept him in prison for so long. Only last June, he was given seven days' solitary confinement after calling out rancour that he might have to rely on Talk Radio to complain about the 12-year other forms of financial support, for exsentence received by his brother Charlie for involvement in a £39m drug deal.

In the words of his lawyer, Trevor Linn. Kray "regrets the taking of life per se, he jecture considering the substantial sums regrets the effect on those persons close of money he has made during his prison to the victim, but he has less feeling for the victim himself - a gangster whom he cation of Our Story, the twins' autobiogbelieved was out to kill him. Allied to a disavowal of his former way of life ... this is an honest and, above all, genuine ex- the royalties have also rolled in from Reg's pression of remorse."

"I have got no regrets," Kray told The we used was against people from our own criminal culture." This is the argument which is frequently used by his apologists, which the twins' proceeds have been estibut the truth is that the Krays' intimida- mated at anything up to £1m. Other

tory techniques had almost succeeded in Reg's Mr Bountiful putting them beyond Last February Karl Crompton, the reach of the law. who had won the lottery, gave

And whether Kray a gift of £100,000 from the McVitie was a villain film jackpot he had won the or not his murder previous summer. Kray was was a particularly reported to have spent £72,000 of horrific affair. The the money on charity events such peal. E behind by Ron Kray, out for sick children.

who urged his twin brother, "Kill him, Reg. Do him". Reg plunged a carving knife into McVitie's face below the eye. After further butchering he was left impaled to the floor through the throat.

In August last year, Kray was moved from Maidstone Prison to Wayland, a category C jail in Norfolk, which would seem to suggest that parole could follow in a couple of years. According to the leaked report. Kray plans to live with his new wife and his friends in a country house in Nor-

folk, where he intends to run a

عكذا عن ألاصل

recording studio. Trevor Turner, a consultant psychiatrist at Homerton hospital in east London, is quoted as saying that: "His future plans with regard to writing and the music industry

may have a somewhat unrealistic quality, reflecting more his role as an icon than particular abilities, but he did not hold them with any specific conviction, accepting withample social security."

Whether Kray is really in need of social security funds is open to some concareer, beginning in 1988 with the publiraphy, for which they were said to have received a £100,000 advance. Since then subsequent solo works, which include Reg Kray's Book of Slung (a rumoured Independent in March 1995. "The violence £75,000 advance) and his own autobiography. Bom Fighter.

Then there was the film, The Krays, for sources of income have been limited edition

paintings and T-shirts. When Kray finally does get out, that old iconic status is unlikely to have lost its money-making apvictim was held from as parties for pensioners and days OUT T-shirts to be coming your way soon.



Kray in his prime: He was sentenced to a minimum of 30 years in 1969

Photograph: Hulton Getty

A poem by Reg called 'Free' I am the freest of the free

do not recognise the clock The day or the years My life is without cares Bécause I refuse To count the days or years So, I am free There's no boundaries for me I am the freest of the free

This is my philosophy. Friends of Reg

For some years campaigners have sought to secure an early release for Reg Kray. In October 1993 a petition with over 18,000 signatures was handed in at 10 Downing Street demanding parole for both Reg and Ron. Celebrity supporters included Roger Daltrey, Patsy Kensit and Barbara Windsor (pictured). Mike Reid, now Windsor's colleague in EastEnders, suggested at the



time that, "Had they remained free, the London of today would be a safer place. During their reign there was no mugging."

Two years later the Sun columnist Garry Bushell berated the then Home Secretary Michael Howard for saying that parole for Kray was out of the question. Bushell was of the opinion that Kray should have been hanged in 1969, but he now considered that keeping him behind bars proved nothing. "He did not kill a kid or a law-abiding citizen. He topped another villain," concluded Bushell. "By our sick liberal standards he has paid for his

Reg's wedding

Kray's first wife, Frances, committed suicide in 1967, two years after their marriage. He met his current wife, Roberta, in Maidstone prison in 1995. An English graduate 25 years his junior, she was working as a freelance media consultant and had been asked to help organise publicity for a video Reg had contributed to about his brother Ron. Their wedding took place in the prison's Church of the Good Shepherd last July and Kray's best man was his fellow inmate, Bradley 'Goombah" Allardyce, who is serving twelve years for armed robbery. Kray has said that if he is released he would like to become a father. "I know by studying my body that I am as virile now as I ever was," he commented. "Perhaps it's partly to do with the cold shower I have every morning after I phone Roberta." "Regarding our love life, I have just switched myself off," said

Reg's chosen epitaph "Don't weep by my graveside."

You must love my Dome, orders Mandelson

By Anthony Bevins Political Correspondent

THE Millennium Dome was being launched on a wave of superlatives last night as Peter Mandelson vied with the Prime Minister to promote interest in today's first-instalment announcement of contents.

ing point in history," the Minister without Portfolio said in a and its achievements, its ingepress release, "a unifying opportunity for people to come together from all backgrounds and all parts of the United Kingdom. The point at which Britain, with its proud past, meets Britain, with new confidence in

Test cricketer

THE FORMER Indian Test cricketer Ra-

man Lamba was declared dead yesterday

Lamba, 38, an opener who played four

Test matches and 29 one-day internation-

als for India, suffered severe brain injuries

after being hit while fielding in the short-

leg position during a match on Friday in the

Bangladeshi capital Dhaka. He was play-

ing for local side Abahani Krira Chakra in

premier division match against Moham-

madan Sporting Club, and was believed not

The blow knocked him unconscious and

he was taken to the intensive care unit of

the Institute of Post Graduate Medicine and

Research in Dhaka, where he spent three

days in a coma before doctors declared him

Former England and Yorkshire batsman

to have been wearing a helmet.

dead yesterday morning.

three days after being hit on the head by a ball.

killed by ball

Dome of the Future — a Dome of exploration, discovery and revelation. It will be our Dome - a shared experience, with people setting aside differences and divisious to unite in Britain's celebration, unique in the world, of

the new Millennium.

"The Dome will be like a giant mirror for the nation. The "The Millennium is a meet-reflection I want to see is of a nation intensely proud of its past nuity and creativity, its bravery and its sense of justice and fair play. But more than that, I want the Dome to capture the spirit of modern Britain - a nation that is confident, excited, impatient for the future. A na-

Over and out

claims it was a tennis ball.

He was 56.

'absent dead'.

"The sad thing for me is it appears, from being hit by the ball. It is truly tragic."

1751 The Prince of Wales (son of George

II) was hit in the side while playing cricket at

his Buckinghamshire home, Cliveden House. The blow caused an internal abscess, which

burst fatally a few months later. One theory

1870 George Summers died from a blow on

the head while batting for Nottinghamshire

against the MCC at Lords, he was 25. The

bowler, named Placts, was so distraught he

1942 The former Test cricketer Andy Ducat

match between Home Guard units at Lords.

He was given not out 29 on the scorecard.

1959 Abdul Aziz was hit in the chest while

and died from the blow. For his team's sec-

ond innings, the scorecard pronounced Aziz

Leading Indian batsman Sachin Ten-

dulkar, who played alongside Lamba on

his international debut in Pakistan in 1989,

said: said "It's difficult to put my grief in

words. I can't imagine a player died after

as a part-time professional. During his in-

ternational career, he scored 782 runs in 32

Lamba played club cricket in Bangladesh

batting in Karachi. He had a weak heart,

died of a heart attack while batting in a

changed from fast bowling to slow.

says he was hit by a cricket ball, another

the future. The Dome will be a tion that wants to move forward together, gathering up our past to address our future, in common purpose."

The Prime Minister's official spokesman said that Mr Blair would be saying this morning when he unveils the contents list for the first seven "modules" of the Dome, that once people saw what it would contain, there would be a "huge bandwagon" of support for it.

Mr Blair was planning to say that Britain was a place of daring and striving for excellence, leading the world in its creativity, and it should, therefore, "shout about it".

The Dome would be a celebration of the "best of British";

good for business and good for tourism and Britain's standing in the world, with people from around the world visiting the Dome and having "the time of their lives".

The Prime Minister and Mr Mandelson were also at pains to dispel three "myths" at present surrounding the Dome Project. "First, the Millennium Experience is not using £750 million of taxpayers' money." Mr Mandelson's press release said. "It is a public-private partnership. £399m of lottery money invested by the Millennium Commission will be balanced by well over £300m in private sec-

tor sponsorship and commercial

RNLI targets 'Titanic' viewers

By Rosa Prince

Film-goers traumatised by watching Kate Winslet battle against a watery grave in the blockbuster movie Titanic are donating hundreds of pounds to a lifeboat charity on their way out of the cinema. Volunteers from some branches of the

Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) have been fund-raising outside cinemas screening the film. Other branches have placed collection boxes in cinema lobbies. Mary Jenner, area organiser for the De-

von region of the RNLI, said watching the film about the 1912 Titanic disaster, in which hundreds of passengers died, made viewers aware of the horror of death by drown-

She said: "I think that people have a real fear of drowning. Perhaps its something to do with being an island race. Tuanic makes them confront the reality of drowning. When they see the film they start thinking about it."

Cinemas in Devon, the north east, Wales, Oban and Belfast have been taking part in the project and organisers hope to collect several thousand pounds by the end Green Flag



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Geoff Boycott, speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live, said the accident underlined the importance of close fielders wearing a helmet. newspaper reports, if accurate, that he [Lamba] was fielding close in without a you a bit of a shock but you should be fine one-day internationals, including a centu-

Prescott says recycle land for most homes

By Colin Brown and Nicholas Schoon

FORMER ministers last night claimed that the floodgates had been opened to legal challenges against housing development in beauty spots across Britain after the announcement of new planning guidelines requiring councils to ensure that most new housing goes on "recycled" land.

'Appeals will be made by every single council whose county or district plan has already been confirmed," said John Gummer, the former Tory environment secretary.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Environment, Regions and transport, immediately faced pleas from MPs on all sides of the Commons yesterday to look again at controversial bousing schemes in their areas after announcing new guidelines requiring 60 per cent of housing to be built on recycled land.

He was asked to intervene in the development of 1,500 houses in the Aire Valley, Yorkshire, by Labour MP Ann Cryer and appeals could be made elsewhere such as Stevenage, where he has agreed to 10.000 houses in the green belt. It could strengthen the legal challenge by West Sussex, which is appealing in the courts against his order rejecting a cut in the county's housing allocation.

Mr Prescott said last night that the previous target of 4.4 million new homes by 2016 could be exceeded and that he was considering a "greenfield" tax. But The Independent has learnt that it will not be included in the Chancellor's Budget on 17 March. Mr Prescott is facing resistance from Gordon Brown over demands that the money raised from housing in greenfield sites should be kept by his department for a major redevelopment of recycled land.

velopers search harder for opportunities to build homes on derelict or under-used land within the cities. But tackling crime, poor school standards and pollution in the cities are all seen as key ingredients.

Tony Burton, of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, which has led the fight to slow urban sprawl, said: "This could be a watershed. But it will take years of effort from the Government and local councils to turn the ideas in this document into action on the ground."

The Government's new national target is for 60 per cent of new homes to be built on previously developed land. The most recent figures show 52 per cent had been achieved in the Nineties. This target will not be uniform throughout England. In each region, groups of local councils will be expected to come up with their own target.

The Government stands by its estimate that 4.4 million new households will be formed between 1991 and 2016 in England. But ministers want to devolve more power to the regions over levels of housebuilding. If too few homes are provided, and this leads to emigration, overcrowding and rising property prices, they want monitoring to pick this up and allow more housing land to be allocated.

From now on, housebuilders seeking planning permission for greenfield sites will have to demonstrate that there is no suitable derelict, urban land nearby. Vacant sites near to bus routes, railway stations, workplaces, shopping centres and other facilities will be favoured above more remote ones.

The Department of the Environment will also set up a database on how land is used in England. Until now, the debate has been bedevilled by a dearth of data on how much vacant and contaminated land there is. There Mr Prescott's long-awaited statement were no details in yesterday's statement about outlined measures that should make de- how the new survey would be financed.

Architects choose London eyesores for beauty therapy

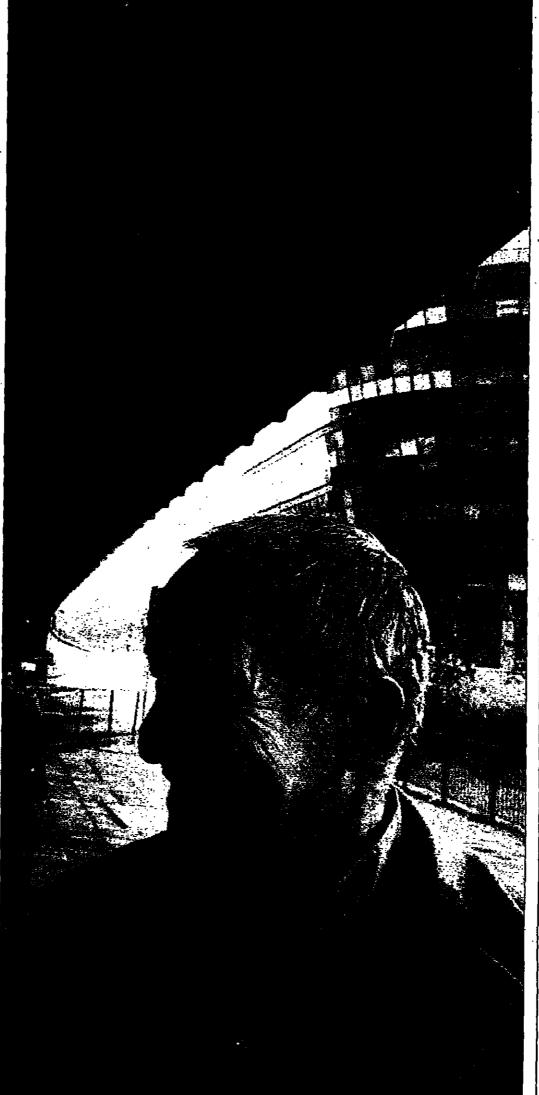
LORD ROGERS of Riverside, new has already agreed to put the resulting ideas Labour's Mr Architecture, joined with min- into practice. isters past and present yesterday to launch a scheme to transform some of the capital's worst evesores.

The Architecture Foundation aims to landscape a series of London's most unpleasant locations, ranging from the Hammersmith flyover to areas around Wormwood scrubs. Over the coming months, architects will consult residents from different areas of London on how they want to see the areas changed. In a trial project, people in nine areas of Hammersmith and Fulham are to be consulted within the next three months. The local council

Lord Rogers, chairman of the trustees, s present vesterday as the Architect Foundation Roadshow was launched. The roadshow will hold public meetings in four boroughs, with the aim of finding ideas and agreement for rescuing key, decrepit public places, including parks, playing fields, riverside walks and underpasses.

The Labour peer was also vesterday appointed by the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, to head a task force advising the Government on how brownfield sites could be turned back into thriving communities.

— Nicholas Schoon



On location: Lord Rogers standing beneath the grim Hammersmith flyover in west London yesterday for the launch of the Architecture Foundation Roadshow Photograph: john Voos

Prison guards threaten strike over Government 'betrayal'

PRISON officers yesterday threatened a national dispute over the Government's refusal to reverse a ban on industrial action. A conference in London of the Prison Officers' Association

accused Labour of "betrayal" and agreed to use disruptive action to protect the health and safety of prison officers. Mark Healy, chairman of the POA, said confrontation was now

The Prison Service has offered a new pay review body and independent arbitration for settling disputes to compensate for the Government's refusal to restore the right to take action.

Homeless to be evicted

THE LAST homeless people living in one of Europe's oldest cardboard camps are to be evicted within a month.

The London borough of Lambeth yesterday won an eviction order against 18 people and others it was not able to identify who have been living in the Bullring and Undercroft below

Shaun Tomlinson, 30, a resident of the Bullring for 10 years, said it would be difficult for some people to move into homes of their own after up to 15 years sleeping rough, without huge amounts of support. For him, the decision means the loss of his job as well as his home, as he's the only registered seller of the Big Issue magazine for the homeless in that area.

A Lambeth Council spokeswoman said the council hoped that the homeless people would now realise that the borough was serious about regenerating the area. Part of it has already been cleared to make way for the British Film Institute £20m giant screen cinema and the council now hopes to press ahead with its rejuvenation of the area.

Fourteen rough sleepers have already been rehoused or are about to be rehoused, the council spokeswoman said, and the remainder would be given 28 days before the possession order was enforced.

New rules for Channel 4

CHANNEL 4 has had its broadcasting licence re-written so that it must produce more programmes with multicultural and disability themes. It also has to reduce the number of repeats and imported American programmes it uses.

The channel will now have to air at least three hours of television a week about, and for, audiences from Britain's ethnic minorities. It also has to broadcast some of those shows in its peak evening period. The new terms are a victory for comedians Lenny Henry and Michael Palin, and novelist Ben Okri, who campaigned for increased multicultural output.

As well as extra disability shows, the channel must now increase to 60 per cent the proportion of shows commissioned specially for it. This follows some concern among some critics about its dependence on imported programmes like Friends, Frasier and Opnah.

The broadcaster's licence had to be re-written by the independent Television Commission after the Culture Secretary. Chris Smith, decided to end the controversial funding formula that meant Channel 4 paid a share of its advertising revenues to ITV. With the extra money it now has, it is expected to return to a more radical style of programming than

Paul McCann, Media Correspondent

Driver survives cliff crash

A MOTORIST was recovering in hospital last night after his car plunged 200ft over cliffs yesterday.

The driver, who is in his early 30s, was flung clear of the

vehicle and left stranded on a grassy ledge about 70ft down. An RAF helicopter crew winched him to safety from the cliffs at Braich y Pwll near Aberdaron on the Lleyn Peninsula in North Wales and airlifted him to Bangor Hospital. He is being treated for a broken arm and minor injuries.

An RAF spokesman said: "We were alerted shortly after 1pm by coastguards who had reports that a car had gone off the cliffton and into the sea.

"The driver was very cold but we had expected to find him much more severely injured."

Day of destiny for jealous British nurse who shot dead her husband in Florida

By Phil Davison in Miami

FLORIDA police call it the Valentine's Day murder. And British nurse Helen Cummings, who confessed to shooting her husband to death in a jealous rage, could find out today if she will face the electric chair.

A Florida state attorney listened on Sunday to police evidence before deciding

whether the killing was premeditated, that is, first-degree murder, which could mean the death penalty; second-degree, which could mean life; or manslaughter, with a jail term of up to 25 years. Mrs Cummings, a white 32-year-old of Preston, Lancashire, who had lived in the United States for 10 years and worked at the Holy Cross Hospital in North Lauderdale outside Fort Lauderdale, had been married

to Tyler Cummings, 30, a black male tographs of another woman - "partially nurse, for three years. They had a sixmonth-old son Tyler Jnr, now in the custody of his paternal grandparents.

According to a confession cited by police, Mrs Cummings had filed for divorce last September after suspecting her husband of adultery. But she was living with

him in an attempt at reconciliation. On St Valentine's Day, she found pho-

district at 3pm. Finding him in bed after a nightshift, she emptied a .357 Ruger Magnum revolver, according to the confession. Mrs Cummings then grabbed her child.

dressed or undressed", according to police US equivalent of 999 - and shouted: "I've - in his pick-up van. She stormed into their done something terrible. Got to 100 East Jasvilla in North Lauderdale's sleepy Forest Glen and waited for police to pick her up. It as not clear where she had obtained the gun.

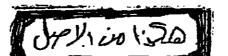
Mrs Cummings is being held in Broward dropped the gun and ran off. A block and bail, Florida state attorney Deborah Zima half way, she stopped someone in the street

who had a cellular phone, dialled 911 - the the killing was premeditated. If so, a grand jury will decide whether she should face the death penalty. If convicted and givmine Lane." She then ran to a friend's house en the death penalty, it would be execution by "Old Sparkie", an early 20th century electric chair.

A woman convicted of murder - known County jail, Fort Lauderdale, without as "the Black Widow" - is next month due to become the first woman executed in mit was expected to decide today whether Florida for 150 years.

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By Judith Judd Education Editor

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Flores for Channel 4

gen survives sufficial

STUDENTS who go to new universities are at a disadvantage in the job market, according to the results of a wide-ranging new study of graduate employment.

Many employers put them at the bottom of the heap when they are recruiting new gradu-

The study from the University of Cardiff of nearly 400 of the top graduate employers raises questions about the Gov-

ernment's policy of charging students the same tuition fee wherever they choose to study.

From September, all students will be charged £1,000 a year for tuition regardless of their subject or institution. Some of the best-known universities are already challengthe Government's determination to stop them charging more.

More than a quarter of the employers in the study target only a small number of "top" universities. Two-thirds of employers targeted universi-

ties they rated most highly. Overall, companies put universities with whom they had close ties at the top of the list for graduates who interested them most - and that included

a few new universities. They were more interested in whether universities required a high A-level point score than their age or prestige. So graduates from redbrick and 1960s universities, such as Warwick and Lancaster, are in as much demand as those from Oxbridge and ancient univerinburgh. New universities came

Dr Anthony Hesketh, who carried out the survey, said: "The implications for the debate about fees are pretty bot. It is going to be very difficult to avoid differential fees for different types of university."

Dr Geoffrey Copland, of the Coalition of Modern Universities and vice-chancellor of the University of Westminster, said: "There is a problem. Some companies recruit in the image of people they have always recruited. But our gradsities such as Durbam and Ed-

uates are often employed in local firms where they have been on sandwich placements. or by smaller companies."

According to the survey funded by Hobsons, the publishers, employers are not disenchanted with the standard of graduates despite the big expansion in student numbers during the last decade.

Around three-quarters think standards have stayed the same or are improving. Most employers rated the performance of the graduates they employed highly.

Those from the redbrick universities had even higher ratings than those from Oxbridge.

Generally, graduates were better at learning new material quickly and having new ideas than they were at being efficient and reliable.

The research reveals a mismatch between the skills employers want and those that most graduates possess.

Technical skills, numeracy and information technology skills are much less important to employers than the ability to communicate and to work in a

team. Even in science and engineering jobs, the latter are highly rated.

Dr Hesketh suggests that the emphasis on the need for universities to teach more information technology in last year's Dearing review of higher education may be misplaced.

The salaries new graduates can command vary hugely from just £7,500 in a small business to £28,000 in a merchant bank. The average salary is £15,100. Just 5 per cent of jobs for new graduate pay more than

There is no sign that the market for graduates is declining, despite universities' increased output. Only 2 per cent of employers expected the number of graduates they took on to decrease and a fifth were expecting to increase recruitment

Dr Hesketh believes that the rising expansion of the graduate labour force is sustainable. Those students who are wondering whether it is worth paying fees at university should go ahead and do it.

MCC's historic wait for maidens may soon be over

By David Llewellyn

ONE of the oldest and most elitist bodies in world sport will decide today whether to allow women to join its membership. Those familiar with the machinations and outlook of the Marylebone Cricket Club are not optimistic that it will overturn more than two centuries of discrimination.

A meeting tonight at the indoor cricket school at Lord's will hear the result of a ballot on the issue. The MCC coma rule dating back to 1787 be overturned. But with the proposal requiring a two-thirds members the feeling is that it will fail, as a similar motion did in 1991 when 2,371 voted for

women and 4,727 against. Roger Knight, the MCC secretary, said: "I'm sure there will be a much larger percentage of the club in favour than there was last time, when only 33 per cent supported a change to the rules."

The exclusion of women was one of the reasons that MCC's application for a £4.5m



majority of the club's 18.000 Into bat: Sophie Lamb, II, with her father Tim Lamb, chief executive of the England and Wales Cricket Board, who will vote for women members of MCC Photograph: Richard Watt

lottery funding was refused. The money would have helped rebuild the Grandstand at Lord's, which is owned by MCC and is regarded as the game's spiritual home. And a "No" vote would not be welcomed by the game's rulers in Britain, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). Their chief executive Tim Lamb said yesterday: "I don't think we would be pleased. We would

regard it as unfortunate." The problem is that al-

though MCC ceded control of the game to the then Test and County Cricket Board 30 years ago, the world at large still views the organisation as being in charge, a perception not helped by the fact that the august body is the guardian of the laws of the game.

Mr Lamb added: "I don't think too much store should be

set by a No decision, because although the MCC has a great history and plays a major contribution to the game, it is the ECB which is promoting a modern forward-thinking view of the game and how it should be taken up at all levels."

This poll, like the one in 1991, was sparked by an application from the former England women's captain Rachael Heyhoe-Flint, whose husband

Derrick is a member. Yesterday Mrs Heyhoe-Flint, 58, said: "I'm not very optimistic... I think we might get a majority, but I don't think it will the requisite twothirds. Having waited seven years since the last time I was naughty enough to apply to become a member I'm not

holding out too much hope." Several high-profile members, such as Tim Rice and

the House of Lords - there are Dennis Amiss, have backed the over 100 women there now and move, but a more traditional view came from Bill Edwards, they are putting a bust of Emily Pankhurst in the corner and press officer for Saracens Rugby Club and an MCC member even setting up crèches. 'We don't want any of that. for 23 years. "I'm too old for change and I don't want the I love the comfort and the es-

upheaval." said Edwards, who capism, when you can just sit around and chat with the lads. at 54 is three years younger It's purely chauvinist. I know than the average MCC member. "Whatever spoon you 300 or so members and they all feed in the sugar with there will say they are not having bloody women in. Why don't they always be problems. Look at

10 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

1. Pull down their genes and examine their chromosomes: men have a Y-chromosome, which is a sort of stunted version of the female X-chromosome.

2. Get them to take their sweaters off: men tug from behind the neck: women execute an elegant crossed-arms ma-

noeuvre. 3. Measure their corpus collosum. joining the two halves of the brain. Women's are 23 per cent

4. Men are better at rotating three-dimensional objects in their heads. This may account for the fact that most good spin bowlers

are male. 5. Kneel down; place one elbow at your knee, and extend the arm and hand, marking the furthest point the middle-finger can reach with an upright matchbox. Now dasp hands behind your back and try to pick up the matchbox in your mouth. If you can do so without overbalancing, you are

Women are better than men at remembering where things are. 7. Women examine their fingernails with fingers stretched away from them; men curve their fingers towards them.

a woman.

8. Women hang toilet paper to curl over at the top of the roll: men have it peeping out from undemeath.

9. An average women is 25 per cent fat; a man is only 15 per cent

lead with their hips; men

with their shoulders.

make their own club? Why in-

vade someone else's territory?" The popularity of the MCC is such that there is an 18-year waiting list of men wishing to enter this élite male preserve. Anything that could extend that waiting time - and there is little doubt that a vote admitting women would have

that very effect - would be as

welcome as a flat tonic in their

Parliament

band in Fiorida **Kew centre** to detect Fake herbs

By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

A CENTRE for detecting fake Chinese herbs which have caused serious injury to patients who have taken them as alternative medicines is to be set up at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew. Kew is appealing for £700,000 to establish the centre, which will keep records of the 400-500 Chinese species commonly used in herbal remedies and provide expert help to identify them and check their quality.

There has been a series of cases in which traditional Chinese remedies available from Oriental pharmacies have been found to contain herbs that have been wrongly identified, adulterated or deliberately faked. The high demand has endangered some rare plants in the wild and substitutes disguised as the real thing have been offered with nasty results. Some have been found to be contaminated with heavy metals such as arsenic and lead.

More than 100 cases of poisoning or serious side-effects have been linked to the use of Chinese and other traditional remedies. Dr Virginia Murray, deputy director of the National Poisons Information Service at Guy's hospital, London, which is supporting the centre, said: "It is terribly important we get this centre off the ground. Some of these herbs are known to be highly toxic."

A 1995 study conducted by a Chinese pharmacologist suggested 10-25 per cent of all Chinese herbs on sale in Britain were wrongly identified. Christine Leon, botanist in traditional medicine at Kew, said: "That is a staggering figure. I found it quite frightening. If I was seeking treatment I would want an assurance that the herbs being prescribed were what they claimed to be."

Monty Python team set for one last laugh

By Tim Comwell in Los Angeles

THE FIVE five surviving members of the Monty Python team are to take to the stage in Aspen, Colorado, next month for the first time in 10 years. While the event is not billed as a Monty Python show, the mere fact they are appearing together is generating huge excitement among comedy

John Cleese, Michael Palin, Eric Idle, Terry Jones and Terry Gilliam will meet for a retrospective and tribute to their work at the US Comedy Arts Festival, surrounded by contemporary American comics who regard Python's anarchic style as an inspiration.

The 90-minute appearance is being taped for the American cable channel Home Box Office. They will take questions as clips of their work are played, an HBO spokesman said, with a US con dian, Robert Klein, presiding. But Michael Palin, fuelling speculation, told the Hollywood trade magazine Variety that they will probably perform a sketch or

The last time the five performed together was for a more sombre occasion - the memorial service for fellow Python Graham Chapman, who died of cancer in 1989. "We've considered getting together before, but there's been this feeling that we aren't quite complete without Graham and it would always be so," Palin said. It is 30 years since Python first aired in 1969.

A five-year television run led

cultural history.



a jaunt around the Pacific titled to spin-off films like 1975's Monty Python and the Holy Grail. Palin's Rim. He declined an invitation to But the team have long since forged separate and creative caa 25th anniversary dinner in the reers, and sometimes tire of be-

US, which had also fuelled speculation of a reunion. But he told ing asked about a show that is now Variety in January that "when we enshrined in modern comic and meet up together face-to-face, there's always the chance that Palin's star is riding high as the host of a series of phenomenally have a good time in Aspen, that successful travel shows, the latest

may just mean that we'd consider a future project - most likely a movie, I would think."

John Cleese's latest film was Fierce Creatures, the less than stellar follow-up to A Fish Called Wanda. More recently he was the voice of an erudite talking gorilla in the recent Disney film George something may come of it ... if we of the Jungle. Terry Gilliam has won accolades as a director of

five survivors

are to inflict

their brand

of humour

fashionable

Colorado

resort of

Aspen at

the US

Arts

Comedy

Festival next

on the

ful film-maker and children'sbook writer, while Eric Idle became a Hollywood writer. The four-day Aspen festival draws many top contemporary comic acts in America, running from the television skit Political-

ly Incorrect to the scatological car-

such films as Brazil and The Fish-

er King; Terry Jones is a success-

to get more airtime The full By Paul McCann Monty: the Media Correspondent original line-up. The

THE BBC has reacted to concern from MPs about its planned coverage of Parliament by increasing the amount of airtime given to Westminster while at the same time making it harder to find.

Yestenlay In Parliament, Radio 4's morning Westminster round-up, is to be reduced to broadcasting just on Long Wave. But as a sop to MPs who signed an Early Day Motion when it was rumoured to be ending altogether, the programme will be extended from 14 minutes a day to 23 minutes a day. Listeners who wish to tune in to politics will be warned about the frequencies splitting, while Radio 4 FM con-

tinues with the Today programme until 9am. The evening Westminster round-up. Today in Parliament, survives but In Committee is to be replaced by a new general politics show, The Westminster Hour. The Week in Westminster, the weekly round-up of politics hosted by guest newspaper journalists, is losing its prime Radio 4 Saturday morning slot, but will move to 8,30pm on

Thursday and stay at the same length. On television the discussion show The Midnight Hour and round-up show On The Record are to be scrapped. They will be replaced by a nightly programme which will combine discussion and a review of daily Westminster events. This will air at midnight on BBC 2 from Monday to Thursday.

In all the BBC is claiming an extra 79 hours of coverage of Parliament a year on radio and TV combined. The changes have come about because of a desire by Radio 4's controller, James Boyle, to stop millions of listeners switching from his network the second Yesterday in Purliament starts.

E STORWITTON MCK THE WEAKER

'MI6 knew firm was selling arms to Saddam'

By Kim Sengupta

THE High Court in London will today hear allegations that the British security services encouraged a defence company to secretly channel arms to Sad-

As diplomacy continues to avert another war with Iraq, MI6 documents are due to be presented revealing for the

first time that businessman the then defence secretary Stephan Adolphus Kock, who was on the board of Astra Holdings, had worked as a "support agent" for the security services for over 20 years.

Czech-born Mr Kock was also involved with defence contracts with Malaysia. Other documents due to be presented to the court include a letter

George Younger in April 1987.

The documents in question relate to a case in which the Department of Trade and Industry is seeking to disqualify the directors of Astra Holdings. which collapsed in 1992, for alleged malpractice and mismanagement of the company.

The directors, including the from him about the matter to former chairman Gerald

the Astra board and turned a blind eye to the company and its subsidiaries supplying arms to Iraq including components for the supergun. This was because the Iraqi regime was then seen as a bulwark against fundamentalist Iran.

Mr Kock supplied MI6 with information about Astra. He is

curity services planted a spy on to the intelligence agency that a Belgian company, PRB, acquired by Astra was involved in supplying rocket propellants to the Iraqis. Mr James in turn claims the Government encouraged Astra towards PRB.

Mr Kock also had a relationship with MI5, the documents are believed to show. During the 1980s he was a se-

James, are claiming that the se-said to have voiced his suspicion nior consultant with the international division of the Midland Bank, and wrote to Mr Younger in this capacity.

Mr Kock joined the board of Astra in 1986. He won a power struggle with other board members including Mr James, who was ousted as chairman in March 1990. The documents are said to show he reported his victory to the security services.

qualification of Mr Kock as it considers him less responsible for any wrongdoing.

The documents are also told the Government of his suspicion about the supergun. But and surrounded himself with sehe contacted the police because he believed his home and his telephone were bugged by MI5. The security services, according repairing a van shouting "I am to the documents, had not a soldier you know".

The DTI is not seeking the dis- carried out such an operation. The MI6 documents are

said to show that the agency became concerned that Mr Kock was becoming unstable. He moved from Kent to Scotland curity devices. One night in January 1990 he fired a gun over the head of two men who were

Designer knitwear that won't keep you warm

By Melanie Rickey

KNITWEAR designer Lainey Keogh showed her third collection at London Fashion Week yesterday. It was an opulent affair that owed as much to her Irish roots as it did to flights of fantasy in Tibet, India, ancient Egypt and Rome, and Morocco.

Keogh's creations are hardly recognisable as traditional knitwear; there are no jumpers, woolly hats and scarves; instead Keogh takes the most unusual yarns and transforms them into haute

Filigree gold ropes, strips of even hair were knitted, crocheted and woven into opulent belted robes in rich colours, and a back-lift, ostrich-feathered trimmed dress, together with other variations on dresses that resembled fishing nets.

The clothes were worn by some of the world's top models. Sophie Dahl also put in an appearance. Keogh's clothes are certainly beautiful, but limited in scope because of their price - £315 for a simple jumper and up to £5,000 for a crocheted dress. For this reason most of her fans are celebrities, including Demi Moore, Kate Moss and Naomi Campbell, and they are sure to love all the mossy soft cardigans extravagant shawls and gold linen "chainmail"

As for the rest of us, we'll have to save up for a ostrichtrimmed cardigan by the time

autumn comes around. Photograph: Ben Elwes



Childcare equals better employees

By Glenda Cooper Social Affairs Correspondent

NEARLY half of working parents feel their ability to do their jobs improved by using childcare, according to a survey. The evaluation of the Out Of

School Childcare Initiative showed that 47 per cent of parents felt they had benefited because of the childcare they used. Last week, The Independent

launched its campaign for a tax allowances for working mothers, calling on the Chancellor to take action as affordable, high-quality childcare is the major barrier preventing women from returning to work.

Four out of five non-working mothers said that they would go out to work if they had the childcare of their choice, says the British Social Attitudes Survey. Yet many women feel that they cannot return to work after giving birth because

they cannot afford it. The Daycare Trust calculates those who do pay for care are paying on average £6,000 a year - more than for food or housing.

However, the benefits of childcare for families and the state are well documented. Nearly a third of the children in the UK live in poor households according to a report by Eurostat last year, more than in any other European country.

Social security budgets have risen inexorably to support the jobless, lone parent families and the low waged, says the Daycare Trust. Carefully targeted subsidies will help families move from benefits to work, providing social security savings.

Women who bear children face an immediate loss of income and benefits that disadvantage them in terms of pay, living standards, pensions and job mobility," says Colette Kelleher of the Daycare Trust.

"Fifty-six per cent of women entrepreneurs said easier access to childcare would be the greatest benefit to help women launch their own business."

Cary Cooper, professor of organisational psychology at UMIST, says: "Some women feel they have to go back to work for their careers. Other women feel that by going back they are getting away from the pres-sures of being with children all the time and the status of having a good job will have a bet-

ter effect on their parenting. "They are also keeping in touch with their work and they feel it gives balance to their life. The problem is that we have the longest working hours in Europe, with 40 per cent of managers working at the weekend. If women go back working full time they may not be going back to nine to five but [to] far

Childbirth guru adds her backing

By Glenda Cooper

Childbirth guru Sheila Kitzinger has joined our campaign to give working mothers tax allowances for childcare. "I am happy to support The Independent's campaign for tax relief for working mothers," she says. "This is a really important issue and one that the Government

cannot afford to ignore." The e-mails, faxes and letters continue to flood in as readers express their views on The In-

dependent's campaign. In Saturday's paper we compared the UK's situation with other countries. A reader from Winchester, Marie-Christine Murphy-Bouthor (a French



Kitzinger: 'Government cannot ignore this issue'

citizen working in this country) tells us: "I am horrified with the cost of good quality childcare in the UK. When I tell my relatives in France they still find it difficult to believe me; surely England could not be still in the Dark Ages. I am 38 weeks calls for tax breaks not just for pregnant. I have booked a crèche for my future baby: this will cost me £460 a month ... In France the same quality of childcare would cost me between £100 and £200. And this amount would also be deductible from my taxable in-

Mozart's Grave

A wet dog, the only witness Of a job well donc,

published by Anvil Press (£7.95).

DAILY POEM

As a typesetter scatters the letters of an unwanted sentence:

By Ivan V Lalic (translated by Francis R Jones) A storm, they say, scattered the pitiful cortège

come! And I would have £90 a month in terms of child benefit (twice the amount given in this country). My husband and myself are currently looking for a position in France or Belgium. In those countries we will certainly not be penalised for having a family.

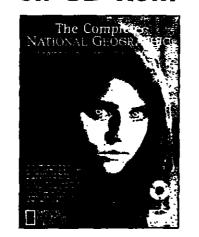
Mandy Price, who works part-time and studies part-time, says care for her two children leaves her not much better off than if she was on income support: "If this Government does not make genuine policies to provide adequate and affordable childcare ... the reality will 💔 surely be that many children are going to be cared for in an informal manner by friends, family, neighbours and, for the older generation, a return to the

latchkey kids of the past." Anne O'Connor, of London, working mothers but those who work in the home, to be given recognition for the job of mothering: "What mothers need is a proper family allowance which would give them the choice of whether to work mainly in or outside the home."



INDEPENDENT

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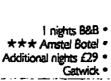
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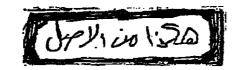
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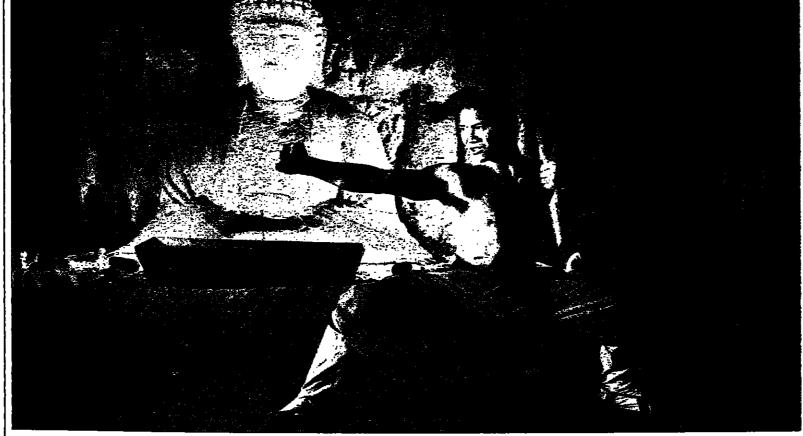
At the intersection of a rainy dusk and history: Hence we have no real proof That Mozart rests in peace But the space trembles with music. Sometimes howls from a star When it hears the stone step of the Guest. The great Serbo-Croat writer Ivan Lalic died in 1996; he described himself not as a Serb or a Yugoslav but as a "Mediterranean poet", and took his inspiration from the region's culture. "Mozart's Grave" comes from Fading Contact, recently











In balance: Buddhist monk YanTzi demonstrating his martial arts at Britain's first Shaolin temple in Islington, north London Photograph: Philip Meech

Kung fu monk puts a kick into Buddhism

HE HAS twice won the world champion title in martial arts, trained the Chinese special forces in kung fu, and personally "handled" a number of high-profile kidnaps. He is also a Buddhist monk, who meditates three hours a day and emanates an aura of calm.

Shi YanTzi, 30, is the senior instructor in China's Song Shan Shaolin Temple, the 1,500year-old father of Zen Buddhist temples. He has been sponsored by the China Cultural Fund, a charity which forges links between East and West, to come to Britain to promote kung fu and Zen Buddhism. He School in Islington, north London, which, since it was blessed by his abbot last week, is the first Shaolin Zen Buddhist

The philosophy of his kung fu is, however, more complex than the aggressive martial arts portrayed in Bruce Lee films. Martial monks employ their art for self-control and self-defence, and complement the physical activity with meditation to achieve peace and harmony. For that reason they

of physical health" to kung fu. The physical side is actually a balance of the mental side," Shi Yan Tzi explained yesterday. "It's just a balance of yin and yang. When you are training you bring out the full physical side like a tiger and when you do the Zen meditations it actually helps to calm the person down and balance the physical aggression."

prefer the term "Shaolin arts

YanTzi was born in northem China. He started training to be a monk at the Shaolin Temple at the age of 15. For the

first three years he was forbidden lessons in martial arts because he was supposed to concentrate on performing menial tasks and studying Buddhist scriptures.

He would, however, "sneak around looking at other martial monks, copying them". So desperate was he to "test out [my] ability", that he entered competitions under a false name. He won six championship titles and two world championship titles. When his tutors found out, he was punished.

One of the five basic Buddhist precepts is that one should not take life. "For 1,500 years Shaolin monks have been killing people," said Shi Yan Tzi, attempting explain the apparent contradiction. "The mercy of the teachings in Buddhism is to suppress the evil side. If you don't kill to protect, how can you be merciful?"

Cheap rail fares on the way out

By Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

CHEAP walk-on railway fares are disappearing from the many lines on the national network as some private firms raise ticket prices by double the rate of inflation, according a survey by an industry magazine.

A report by Modern Railways out later this week shows that since railway privatisation capped certain fares in June 1995, some private operators have increased their cheapest tickets by more than 20 per cent. Inflation over the same period was a little more than 9 per cent.

The study, of 17 private rail companies, fingers the muchcriticised Virgin Trains, on its west coast service, as the worst culprit. It raised its SuperSaver tickets on average by 21 per

Not much better was Midland Main Line - run by coach giant National Express. Passengers buying its cheapest walk-on fares saw increases, on average, of 16 per cent. The analysis, by ticket and timetable expert Barry Doe, used a "basket" of ticket prices to calculate an average for each operator.

The results were startling. In 1995, passengers travelling from London to Crewe on the then British Rail-run west coast line paid £30 for a SuperSaver return. With Virgin, travellers now pay nearly 22 per cent more for the same ride.

Midland Main Line has put up its cheapest walk-on fare on the London to Leicester service by 17.4 per cent - nearly double the rate of inflation - since



Fridays and summer Saturdays, are viewed as the key off-peak fare for most passengers.

Mr Doe has pointed out that some SuperSaver fares have increased so much they are more expensive than less-restricted tickets. "Virgin was forced to reduce its Southampton to Thurso SuperSaver ticket when it an 18 per cent rise saw it become more expensive than its supposed dearer Saver fare."

Virgin have made it clear that they view turn-up-and-go tickets as a relic of the past. Richard Branson's managers tried to abolish the SuperSaver fares last year. The company was forced to back down after passenger groups protested. In documents seen by The Independent, Chris Tibbits, managing director of Virgin Trains, admitted it aims to "encourage people to book in advance" and will cut the price of tickets re-

served by telephone. According to Mr Tibbits, "as long as customers book in advance it is likely they will save The company does fares if travellers they travel

95. SuperSaver tickets, which n be used on any day except	offer very low i

June 1995 to January 1998 was 9.27 per cent

INCREASES OF	JT OF LINE	
COMPANY	RISE	TICKET TYPE
Virgin Trains Midland Main Line Thameslink LTS Rail Silverlink	21 per cent 16 per cent 15 per cent 14 per cent 13 per cent	SuperSaver SuperSaver Cheap Day Standard Single Standard Single
Rises calculated from	a basket of fares; in	flation over period from

Southall delay risks repeat of disaster

By Randeep Ramesh

A REPEAT of last year's Southall train crash, which claimed seven lives, could occur while the public inquiry into the incident is delayed, lawyers representing the victims' families have claimed.

The inquiry was supposed to start today, but it will be opened and then adjourned because criminal prosecutions of the rail

firms involved could follow. More than 160 people were injured and seven lives lost when a packed InterCity train,

operated by Great Western, ploughed into a freight train run by English Welsh & Scottish last

Chris Mather, the lawyer heading the co-ordinating committee for the families of the those killed, believes that 12 months could pass in which another disaster could occur.

"If the reasons for the Southall crash are not investigated and addressed very quickly, there is a very real risk of a repeat of this horrifying accident," said Mr Mather, of the London firm Penningtons.

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Treasury highlights 'e-day' cash crisis

By Anthony Bevins and Diane Coyle

THE WITHDRAWAL of £25bn in notes and 100,000 tonnes of sterling coins currently in circulation would be required if Britain joined the European single currency, MPs were told yesterday.

A Commons memo on the practical plans for a euro changeover - already dubbed eday by the Treasury - said that 1 January "would not be a suitable date for the introduction of euro notes and coin - a date in mid-February would be better, following the example of decimalisation.

"Most firms, consumers and employees would prefer a rapid changeover, to minimise the costs of handling two currencies. However, reducing the legal period of dual circulation to less than six months might cause public anxiety, particularly among special needs groups and the elderly."

But the memorandum, from the Treasury to the Commons Treasury Committee, then added: "The logistics would include withdrawing 100,000 tonnes of sterling coins and distributing 70,000 tonnes of euro coins, and switching £25bn of notes - with all the security im-

plications that that would entail." The memo also said: "Steps to prepare for the introduction of euro notes and coins include: encouraging the public to bank or spend hoarded sterling stock in advance of e-day; encouraging employers to move to automated pay systems ahead of e-day, and pensions, benefits and other payments by national, regional and local authorities to be made in euro from

changeover, the memo added, would have to wait for a decision to join - and Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has already said "that such a decision would probably not take place until after the next election".

But John Redwood, the Tory trade and industry spokesman, warned last night that a single currency would lead to a single government - making general elections "pointless".

Mr Brown will be pressed to amplify his views about possible British entry into the single currency when he faces questions from the Treasury Committee today.

The MPs are likely to press him on whether the pound will need to rejoin the Exchange Rate Mechanism in order to

In addition, the Chancellor will be asked whether he agrees with Eddie George, the newlyreappointed Governor of the Bank of England, that some of the probable first-wave members are unlikely to have achieved real economic convergence by the HEROIN addicts in prison start of next year.

by the Treasury committee when he gave evidence on Emu recently, Mr George said that in his personal view the mates. economies of some countries, such as Italy, Spain and even France, had not converged in a sustainable way. Asked specifically whether they should qualify, he replied: "I have serious doubts about that."

Some City pundits had speculated that Mr George's scepticism - which he describes as "Euro-oragmatism" – had been a reason for Mr Brown, more



Music maestro: Chris Smith, centre, the Secretary of State for Culture, greets Sir George Martin, centre, and rock star Mick Hucknall in the Cabinet Offices yesterday for the inaugural meeting of the Music Industry Forum

Needle exchange system for jails

Political Correspondent

could be provided with clean Prompted by questioning needles in a radical shift of government policy aimed at curbing a rapid increase in hepatitis and other diseases among in-

> Quinn, has asked officials to look into the possibility of setting up needle exchange schemes and to report back to her by the end of March.

cent in hepatitis C cases in prisons within a single year.

In the same year, a range of counselling and therapy of a Euro-enthusiast, delaying schemes had been set up to help e-day." Final plans for the the Governor's reappointment. prisoners deal with drug ad-

The prisons minister, Joyce

The move came after figures showed a rise of almost 50 per

Ms Quinn said in a written Commons answer that although she had "no plans at present" to introduce a needle exchange scheme, she had commissioned advice on the subject.

Last night, a Prison Service official said the possibility of setting up a scheme was under active consideration.

"I think we recognise that there's a problem there and it is being tackled through a group of officials. They will look specifically at the needle exchange scheme as one particular way round it," he said.

In answer to questions from Paul Flynn, Labour MP for Newport West, Ms Quinn revealed that the number of hepatitis C cases reported in prisons rose from 543 in following Monday.

said ministers should accept that drug abuse was endemic inside prisons and should tackle the problem accordingly.

"If hepatitis is spreading in prisons, so possibly is Aids. The cause is almost always people sharing needles. It can be curbed very simply and cheaply with needle exchanges," he said.

He said random testing schemes could actually be increasing the use of hard drugs in prisons. Because cannabis stayed in the system longer than heroin, prisoners knew it was safe to take heroin on a Friday because they would not be tested over the weekend. If they took cannabis, it might still register in tests conducted the

In 1996-97, anti-addiction schemes were set up in 19 prisons around the country, rang-

ing from counselling programmes to "therapeutic communities" in which prisoners with drug problems live separately and receive intensive Those schemes have been

evaluated over the past two years by PDM Consulting, who have recently presented a draft report to ministers. Although the findings have not been made public, it is known that the firm has looked both at schemes which aim to achieve total abstention and at others which take a more pragmatic approach.

in several prisons called "Twelve Steps to Abstinence", said it broadly supported the idea of needle exchanges though it preferred its own approach.

"Our position is that people in prison should have the same drug treatment services as are available to them on the outside, and needle exchange schemes are one of them," he

A spokesman for the Scottish Prison Service, which allows prisoners free access to multipurpose sterilising tablets, said he would not favour such a cases would also have to be move because needles could be classed at varying degrees of risk. used as weapons. If a prisoner fills a needle

A spokesman for the Reham with blood and takes a member has gone to great lengths to bilitation of Addicted Prisoners .. of staff hestage, that is a very prove that Cindy, the cow in Trust, which runs a programme serious situation," he said.

Mad cow league proposed

By Katherine Butler in Brussels

EIGHT EU countries could be declared BSE-free, while seven others would be classified "at risk" under highly-contentious plans for a European mad cow league table being drawn up in Brussels.

European Commissioners meeting tomorrow will consider carving the bloc into three categories, high, low or risk free.

Those, including Germany, which have never had a BSE case in a "native" herd, would not have to implement new rules banning cattle parts such as brain and spinal cord which could pose a danger to human health.

German ministers have already hinted at a political tradeoff under which they would support the relaxation of the British beef export ban if Germany is declared a BSE-free

The agriculture minister, Jack Cunningham, condemned foot-dragging by other EU goveruments reluctant to apply British-style health controls earlier this year, but amid signs that it could be the key to unlocking the ban on Britain, the Government now appears more receptive to the idea of a geographical carve up. "We are considering it" said a spokeswoman yesterday.

EU scientists are already collating data on the incidence of BSE in each member state with a view to identifying the highest-risk regions and countries.

Britain would be the most obvious candidate for high-risk status in any EU league table but Ireland Portugal France Belgium Holland and Luxembourg which have all had confirmed

At least one case has been detected in Germany but Bonn question, came from Britain.

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The Independent and Independent on Sunday have joined forces with Inter-Continental Hotels to offer readers a unique 2 for 1 weekend promotion. Available at a selection of hotels in the UK and Europe, rates for these special weekends start from as little as £60 per room, per weekend and include breakfast for 2 each morning and all taxes and service charges. This fantastic 2 for 1 deal, which represents a 50% saving on the usual weekend rates, is available ex-clusively to independent readers, and is on offer every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from now right through until the

HOW TO BOOK Simply collect 4 out of the 7 tokens we will be printing every

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Mad cow league table proposed

30 die as tornadoes tear into Florida

By Phil Davison

AT LEAST 30 PEOPLE were killed when an unprecedented everything in its way. string of tornadoes, driven by the El Niño weather phenomenon, churned through the Orlando area of Florida before ney World and other tourist at-

tractions. One television channel put the death-toll at more than 40. More than 250 people were hurt and several were missing in the worst disaster to hit drew in 1992 and the worst tor- of their with our lives." nado catastrophe.

Most casualties were in mobile-home sites, where at least a dozen twisters - weathermen up homes and cars like a child tossing around toys. Rescuers, guided by helicopters with devices to seek the heat of bodies, freed several people every direction." trapped in buildings or debris.

Several tornadoes passed near Disney World, Sea World and the Universal Studios Hollywood theme park but none no immediate reports of casu- catastrophe," said a resident. alties at the sites.

By yesterday evening it was not clear whether any foreign tourists were among the dead, injured or missing. One victim found after several hours was an 18-month-old baby, ripped from its father's arms when a tornado hit their home for en zones.

only a few seconds. In some areas it was as though a giant bulldozer had rumbled along a 200-yard wide path, flattening

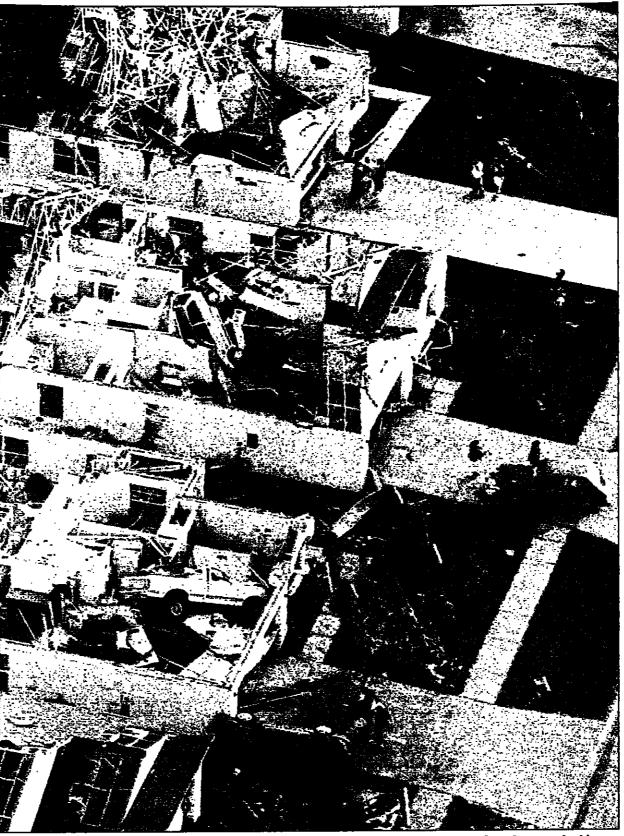
Winds of up to 250mph were enough to pick up articulated lorries, flip them over and scatter them along the dawn yesterday, near Walt Dis- main 1-95 highway, which runs from the southern tip of Florida up the US east coast.

"I looked up and saw the stars. The whole roof was gone," said Eugene Walton, whose family house was destroyed. "If you saw the house, Florida since Hurricane An- you'd wonder how we got out

Joe Saz, who lives in a block of flats at Witer Garden, west of Orlando, said: "You could feel the whole apartment just lost count in the chaos - picked shift. It just jumped to the right. Suddenly water started coming out of the walls, out of the light fixtures and there were screams coming from

Worst hit was Osceola Count, where a 27-shop mall was mangled into a pile of twisted metal and jumbled concrete. 'Had it hit during shopping touched down and there were hours," it would have been a

President Bill Clinton, taking time off from his consultations on the Iraq crisis, sent the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. James Lee Witt, to the area. The Florida Governor, Lawton Chiles, also toured the strick-



People returning to the remains of their homes near the Florida town of Kissimmee after the state had been battered by a series of tornadoes, the worst disaster since Hurricane Andrew in 1992 Photograph: Joe Skipper/Reuters

Albania sends in special forces to quell armed revolt

By Andrew Gumbel

THE Albanian government sent special forces into the northern town of Shkoder yesterday to put down an armed revolt by supporters of the former president, Sali Berisha. It followed a day of mayhem in which pubhave been armed stand-offs lic buildings were burnt, shops looted, the police run out of town and 35 convicted murderers sprung from the local jail.

Interior Ministry forces broke through barricades set up in front of the bridge leading into town and forced about 60 insurgents to flee back into town. Last night the forces were still making arrests. There was no reliable news of casualties.

The revolt - the most serious disruption of public order since the Socialist-led government was voted into office last July - is symptomatic of a disastrous security situation in which the population is heavily armed, crime is one of the few lucrative ways to earn a living and many areas of the country remain under the control of mafia-type gangs.

The activities of Mr Berisha particular concern, especially in hem was the government's fault.

the north, where their support is strongest. Two weeks ago, one of his henchmen, Azim Hajdari, provoked a firefight with police outside Shkoder after he refused to undergo a routine check at a roadblock. Several times in the past month there between the governmentappointed police chief, Mithat Havari, and a number of former policemen dismissed because of their suspected links to organ-

The latest revolt began on Sunday afternoon. A group of hooded men burst into the police station and opened fire, injuring at least three policemen and forcing the rest to flee. The rebels then began sacking the town, reminiscent of last year's anarchic uprising in the south against the Berisha government. They set fire to the town hall, the prosecutor's office, the courthouse, the police station and the university.

ised crime.

Banks were raided, shops looted and churches and mosques attacked. The ruling Socialist party accused Mr Berisha in parliament of inspirand his supporters have been of ing the revolt. He said the may-

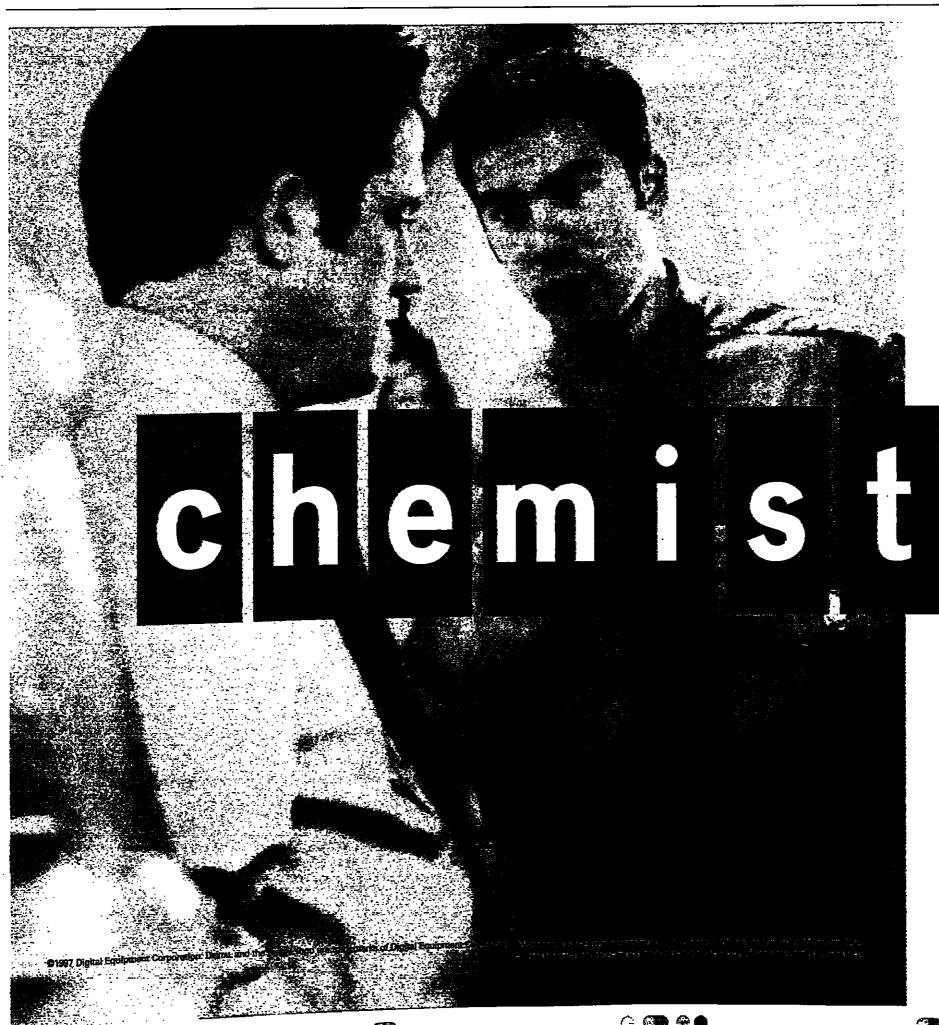
Film exposes child slavery

CHILDREN as young as five are being employed as slave labourers in sweatshops throughout Pakistan, according no idea how old he was, having to filmed evidence to be pre- worked there since infancy. sented today to the European Another man said he would die Union, writes Katherine Butler a slave - he had been working in Brussels.

The film, made as part of an labourer for 50 years. investigation conducted by the International Confederation of yesterday as EU foreign Free Trade Unions, shows small children enslaved with their backed demands by trade parents in brickmaking factories unions for the immediate susnear Islamabad. Some of the families had been "sold" to the Pakistan worth more than £2bn kiln by a former employer.

Ten-year-old boys who have worked in the kilns for five years appear in the film. One boy had in the kilns as a bonded

The findings were released ministers, meeting in Brussels, pension of trade concessions to



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FOR ENTERPRISE COMPUTING

The secrets which sparked the crisis

Robert Fisk in Baghdad reveals how the search for hidden documents led to the Gulf confrontation

A RUSSIAN diplomat who ignored his own government's wishes, and a secret 1996 decision by United Nations arms inspectors to uncover the very core of Iraq's weapons bureaucracy, led to the latest crisis between the United States and Iraq.

The dispute, which will be debated by the UN Security Council today, has its origins in the inspectors' hunt for the entire methodology of Iraq's arms security apparatus – the documents, working commissions and system of its arms production rather than the weapons themselves. Only by discovering the names and status of hundreds of Republican Guard commanders and officials of the Iraqi intelligence service, the UN decided, could it build up a picture of what biological or chemical weapons the Iraqis still intended to construct.

But the Iraqis fear the information would be handed on a plate to the Israelis. UN sources privately, but frankly, admit that there is no way they can guarantee that the information the UN is looking for will not be forwarded to Israel by its American allies.

The preposterous stucco palaces and ornamental lakes across Iraq which have become the focus of Bill Clinton's and Tony Blair's public fury are only incidental to the drama. What the inspectors - originally led by the tough and single-minded Nikita Svidovic - are looking for is the mass of documentation and personnel records that may lie in small buildings outside the palaces. It is the UN's "concealment inspections" that lie at the core of the potential war between the US and Iraq, a series of raids on Iraqi institutions which began in early 1996 to gain knowledge - not of the location of missiles or chemical factories, but of Iraq's system of weapons

In early 1996, Mr Svidovic was running Unscom - the UN Special Commission in Iraq. He had distinguished himself not only by his work on Scud missiles but by his discovery of gyroscopes that could have been used for the Iraqi missiles' guidance system. The Iraqis eventually revealed the gyroscopes, which had been hidden in boxes beneath the Tigris river. While Russia insisted, however, that almost all Iraq's long-range Scud missiles had been destroyed, the US claimed that locally manufactured short-range rockets of 150km radius were being redesigned to fire at faraway targets such as Israel.



Mr Svidovic, apparently ignoring the political wishes of his employers in Moscow, began to notice that when he took his inspectors to sensitive military locations in Iraq, the same Iraqi military unit commanders showed up to watch them. American U2 photo-reconnaissance jets-which can "hover" over specific areas-were taking pictures of the military trucks which left these locations through back gates while Mr Svidovic was waiting at the entrance.

Interestingly, at the height of a later 1997 inspection crisis, the Iraqis threatened to shoot down U2s; the Russians offered to solve the crisis by providing their own aircraft – which did not have the same "hover" ability. The Americans turned down the offer and kept the U2s flying.

By May 1996, Mr Svidovic was being physically blocked from locations. On one occasion he had a gun held to his head by system in place. The Russians tried through

an Iraqi officer. Within a month. Rolf Ekeus, then head of Unscom, came to Baghdad under pressure from the Russians to reach a agreement with Iraqi foreign minister Tariq Aziz. The agreement was more than faintly similar to the one which UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan took home from Baghdad yesterday. Iraq would recognise its obligations under UN arms inspection agreements and in return had the right to have senior officers present at Unscom searches.

UN sources said this agreement was violated within two weeks. But now the U2s, flying with US crews out of Saudi Arabia, were taking photographs which showed that the Iraqi trucks leaving military locations as Mr Svidovic's men approached bore identical number plates to lorries the inspectors were encountering elsewhere. Clearly, there was a coherent weapons concealment system in place. The Russians tried through

their UN ambassador, Sergel Lavrov, to put further pressure on Mr Svidovic to soften his inspections – which is why Mr Svidovic was quietly transferred from the Russian's payroll to Unscom's in 1997.

Mr Svidovic's replacement as head of the concealment teams was former US marine Scott Ritter, the man variously called a spy, abusive and arrogant in the Iraqi press. In fact, Mr Ritter's real importance goes back to the 1991 Gulf war when he was on General Norman Schwarzkopf's staff in Saudi Arabia. To the anger of the general, Mr Ritter voiced repeated doubts about the accuracy of US claims to have destroyed most of Iraq's Scud missiles. To General Schwarzkopf's fury, Mr Ritter was proved

Mr Svidovic may have annoyed the Iraqis, but at least he came from a friendly country – and wore a collar and tie. Mr Ritter turned up at military locations in

jeans and a baseball hat. A cultural as well as military animosity was inevitable. The man whose reports would reach the Pentagon – and thence, the Iraqis were convinced, Israel – could not even dress respectably. Unscom's own frustration with Iraq was creating a lot of ill-will. According to UN sources, Iraqi excuses for failure resembled that of the school-boy who claims the dog has eaten his

homework.
In 1995, for example, the Iraqis themselves took Unscom inspectors to a chicken farm where biological warfare had been the subject of research - but only after Saddam Hussein's son-in-law Hussein Kamal had defected to Jordan. The chicken farm turned out to belong to Kamal. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) provided further evidence of evasion when it interviewed a senior Iraqi nuclear scientist who claimed his country had once estab-

Scott Ritter (in baseball cap) in Baghdad: Inspections by Ritter, head of the Unscom concealment teams and a former major in the US Marines, were blocked by Iraq

lished a joint commission to co-ordinate a clandestine nuclear programme, abandoned after the 1991 Gulf war. The IAEA asked for the names of the commission, and repeated their request last October. Then Tariq Aziz announced that the nuclear commission never existed.

Mr Ritter was determined to continue Mr Svidovic's work on the methodology of Iraqi weapons production. The Iraqis have handed over thousands of documents on their biological programme, but claim to have lost two entire years' worth of records (from 1993 and 1994). Since the Iraqis kept their other papers with near-Teutonic efficiency, the UN suspects the "missing" papers are being withheld. Are they buried? Or in the buildings around the presidential palaces, so sacred to Iraq's sovereignty that UN inspectors have been refused entry? And what else is there? The names of the "non-existent" pre-war nuclear weapons commission?

One of Unscom's biggest problems is that Iraq's chemical or biological technology may be beyond the experience of individual inspectors. Thus, Mr Ekeus searched for "pure view data" - the conclusions of academics and researchers to discoveries made by Unscom's men. How much fertiliser, for example, would a country of 22 million people need? If the answer was lower than Iraq's import of fertiliser, further questions had to be asked. But if Unscom could get its hands on the documentary base of all this research and discover the layers of military and intelligence bureaucracy, then they would be able to go beyond the theoretical and discover the weapons the Iraqis have not even

If the palace outhouses contain the information Unscom needs, Iraq's refusal to admit Mr Ritter and his inspectors makes sense. If the same Iraqi military units and commanders could be identified, then so could new locations. Iraq asked for a 60-day time limit for palace inspections and then a certification that they were "clean". Unscom suspected they would start off "clean", but turn "dirty" afterwards when Iraq trucked its documents back in.

Iraq, which has all along believed that the US and Israel wished to destroy the regime, has every reason to keep its bureaucracy secret. Unscom is involved in the search for Iraqi weapons that may not yet even exist. In Saddam Hussein's eyes, the UN is now spying—on behalf of Iraq's enemies—into its military future as well as its past.

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The Independent and Independent on Sunday in association with Terence Conran are delighted to offer readers the opportunity to enjoy lunch or early evening supper at six of London's top restaurants throughout January and February for £10

From Monday January 5th until Saturday February 28th, the following establishments are offering readers a two course lunch or early evening supper for just £10 per person.

How to Book

To participate in the offer simply collect one token (tokens will be printed every day until Saturday February 28th) and then telephone the restaurant of your choice quoting yourself as an Independent diner. On your arrival at the restaurant you should present your token in order to qualify for the offer. Each token is valid for a complete table booking. The tokens will be valid for one week only, and will be dated accordingly. To continue to participate in the offer, simply collect a token from the week in which you wish to dine. Pre-booking is essential and all bookings are subject to availability.

A special discount is available on selected items in the Bluebird and Le Pont de la Tour shops on presentation of the token.





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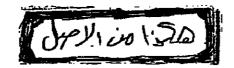
Quaglino's 16 Bury Street, St James's, London, SW1Y 6AL 0171 930 6767 Lunch 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper 5.30pm - 6.30pm

Zinc Bar & Grill 21 Heddon Street, London, WIR 7LF 0171 255 8899 The special 3 course menu is available between 12noon and 7pm

The offer is available 7 days a week at all six restaurants

* Closed from 6pm on Sunday — Offer not workable after 4pm on February 14

between Monday and Wednesday the offer is extended until 1 i pm*



Britain's firm line praised in Europe

By Steve Crawshaw in Brussels

THE DIVISIONS between France and Britain over Iraq remained clear to the very end. "If there'd been no pressure, there would have been no deal." That was how Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, commented Iraq yesterday. He made it clear that this referred to military pressure - which Britain has backed, but which France explicitly rejected.

An official statement issued after a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Brussels attributed the agreement to the "firm resolve shown by the United Nutions and the international community". Mr Cook noted that a "clear majority" - ic. not including France - backed the twin-track strategy of recent weeks, which combined diplomatic and military pressure. This was balanced in the statement by renewed emphasis, à la française, on the EU's "strong ed at ambassadorial level. desire" for a diplomatic solu-

Mr Cook was chairing yesterday's meeting because Britain currently holds the presidency of the European Union. At the same time, Mr Cook spoke on the telephone to Madeleine Albright, US Secretary of State, to co-ordinate the next moves. Britain fatwa. hopes that a new resolution will be agreed at the United Nations, which will nail down the agreement reached in Baghdad. Such a resolution would allow for the possibility of military that this continued pressure will the UN at every turn. British of-needle-free.

three months, in the way that we have been." In a separate statement agreed in Brussels yesterday,

ficials insisted yesterday: "We can't be led up the hill every

the EU was eager to send friendly signals to the new Iranian leader, President on an agreed EU statement on Khatami, who is perceived as a moderate. Ministers talked of "encouraging" developments. and agreed that ministerial visits should be resumed between Europe and Iran. The ministers talked of "the longstanding interest in forging a constructive relationship with Iran". But British officials emphasised that there is no chance that Britain's ambassador will return to Tehran in the foreseeable future: Britain is currently represented in Iran by a charge d'affaires. "While the fatwa against the author Salman Rushdie] remains, that will be the case." Other EU countries are now once again represent-Mr Cook, speaking on be-

half of the EU. said that he "welcomed the first shoots of glasnost in Iran". Ministers decided that "a policy of exclusion would be counter-productive". The official statement merely listed "areas of concern", including weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, and the

The statement was a clear soft-pedalling by comparison with the tough presidency statement issued 10 days ago, on the ninth anniversary of the the fatwa imposed on Mr Rushdie. force if Saddam fails to com- The issuing of the separate, earply with the agreement that has lier statement on Mr Rushdie "balanced statement" (in Mr dissuade Saddam from defying Cook's phrase) to be almost

EU to take softer stance on human rights in China

tional attitude to human rights it impossible for Europe to in China. In view of the "first encouraging results of the EU-China human rights dialogue", the ministers agreed that neither the EU presidency nor individual states will table resolutions on China at the next UN Commis-

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sion on Human Rights. Robin Cook noted: "We didn't do a service to human rights by showing an EU which

EU FOREIGN ministers was deeply divided" - a referagreed to take a less confronta- ence to arguments which made press forward with a condemnatory vote at the UN Commission on Human Rights last year, when France refused to sign up for a draft EU resolution.

In effect, Europe has now retreated from further embarrassment of this kind. Less confrontationally, an opening EU statement will "refer" to the human rights situation in China.



War and peace: it's all in a day's work for Cook

1600 Sunday: Not knowing whether Britain will be at war next week, Robin Cook arrives at the VIP section of Edinburgh airport to board his RAF flight for Brussels. On board the aircraft he joins the officials accompanying him to Brussels, including his private secretary. Dominic Chilcott, and Nigel Sheinwald, his press secretary, and immerses himself in briefing for the European Union's foreign ministers'

meeting the next day. Mr Cook is accompanied on the flight, as for the General Affairs Committee he chaired in Brussels last month, by Gaynor Regan for whose trip he is personally paying. In Brussels she will keep discreetly out of sight

until the flight home. One topic above all dominates the conversation: Iraq, and the first reports filtering out of Baghdad is that Kofi Annan is close to a deal. Mr Cook "strongly resists" suggestions that he has been less hawkish than Tony Blair. He will later tell Alastair Campbell by phone that he was sorry to see "crap" to this effect in the newspapers and that it certainly didn't come from him.

But he is proud of Britain's role in persuading the US, after Washington's marked reluctance - or what one British official delicately describes as "inter-agency gridlock" - to back Mr Annan's mission to Baghdad. It was at a crucial meeting in London on St Valentine's day at which the plot to send Mr Annan to Baghdad with a clear mandate was agreed, between the FCO's Middle East Regional Di-

Donald Macintyre trails the Foreign Secretary to EU meetings in Brussels. But Iraq is never off the agenda during a hectic 24 hours of geopolitics

rector Derek Plumbly and his US and French counterparts.

1915 Sunday: Mr Cook arrives at the large and elegant official residence in the Rue Ducale of Sir Steven Wall, the British representative to the EU. At the time of the last Gulf War, Sir Steven was even closer to the centre, working for John Major in the private office at 10 Downing Street. But now the crisis has come to him, in the brisk form of the Foreign Secretary.

In the privacy of a cramped cloakroom off the hall, Mr Cook takes a call from Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State. At last, some first-hand news, Mrs Albright has spoken by telephone to Mr Annan, who believes he has a deal which can be made to work. In a few minutes he is briefing the Prime Minister - who has spoken to President Clinton - on the Albright call.

The British are now clear that Mr Annan has a deal which he thinks can work. But Mr Annan has been hesitant. to give the details over the telephone. Neither the British nor the Americans are yet clear whether Saddam Hussein is for real on the issue of Unscom's free access to the compounds of the socalled Presidential Palaces, which are believed to house facilities for making, storing or documenting biological or chemical weapons. Mr Blair and Mr Cook agree to be cautious and stick to

the line that they will need to see the

By this time Sir Steven is edgy. Three EU Commissioners are waiting to have pre-dinner drinks with Mr Cook and they are running out of small talk. But Sir Steven also knows he cannot do other than wait. After dinner Mr Cook starts a briefing meeting with senior officials, including Sir Steven, the FCO's political director, Jeremy Greenstock, and Emyr Jones Parry. the senior Europe man in London, on

the next day's Council.

He runs through the business - China, the EU, Cyprus and Iran. But Iraq can't stop intruding. First, it is a topic for the Council meeting. Despite their agreement to the British-sponsored UN resolution in New York, the French Foreign Minister, Hubert Vedrine, is likely to be difficult. Mr Cook muses that given what is happening in Baghdad, "perhaps Iraq will go through sweetly. But I can't believe we'll get away without a tour de table." He's right. Tomorrow it will take him two hours to get an agreed text insisting unequivocally that President Saddam

must conform to the latest deal. Then it's time for another call from Mr Blair - and this time he has spoken to Mr Annan, who is still reluctant to spell out the details on a tele-

firm now that he has a deal which stavs above the bottom lines the Security Council armed him with when he went to Baghdad. It is President Saddam who has done all the conceding. Tired but cheerful, Cook asks Sir Steven for an orange juice to take to bed.

0830 Monday: This is the moment everyone has been waiting for. A resigned Jurgen Trump, Secretary-General of the European Council, has his fifth-floor office in the Justus Lipsius EU building taken over by Mr Cook and his team so they can watch the Annan press conference on CNN.

When the press conference is delayed for half an hour Mr Cook thinks about whether he should go on the Today programme - but not for long. As he points out, even if the press conference hasn't happened by then (which by the time he does speak to Sue MacGregor, it has), "I would be very nervous about leaving a vacuum for others to fill." He doesn't want random MPs and others going on to the radio and saying this agreement shows there should never have been the threat of war, for example. "It would be better to fill the vacuum with stodge than not fill it at all."

When Mr Annan begins to speak there is palpable tension as Mr Cook sits shirtsleeved behind Mr Trump's ulphone line from Baghdad. But he is tra modern steel tube and glass desk,

green Pentel poised over a blank sheet of paper. Mr Annan is lavish in his thanks to President Saddam and Tariq Aziz for his reception in Baghdad.

The officials are impassive but there is an unspoken question hanging in the air. What if Mr Annan has suddenly shifted ground - making fools, especially of the British who had urged the US to back the Annan mission? But then he says boldly in answer to a question that diplomacy is most effective when it is backed by "firmness and force". Mr Cook visibly relaxes; a smile plays on his lips and

he begins noting Mr Annan's words. Mr Cook says later: "If there had been no pressure on Saddam, there would have been no deal from Saddam." He still insists the Government cannot be certain until today's meeting in New York, when the Security Council will discuss the text. But he is hopeful. "A diplomatic solution was always my preferred option." he says.

The day seems over - but Mr Cook still has an EU General Affairs council to chair. And a lunch of all 15 Foreign Ministers. And a press conference at the end of it. And three meetings with the Baltic states. Then another press conference. Somehow he has to fit in - at lunchtime - one more call to Mrs Albright. She was in bed in Washington when Mr Annan was speaking in Baghdad and Cook gives her all his impressions. The line is agreed. It's been a long day, but Mr Cook flies home at 10pm a lot more optimistic than when he arrived.

Baghdad agreement awaits the UN seal

By David Usborne in New York and Anthony Bevins in London

THE AGREEMENT reached at the weekend by Kofi Annan and the Iraqi leadership should become clear this morning when the Secretary General, on his return from Baghdad, will lay it out before a meeting of the UN Security Council.

If it satisfies the council, then work will start immediately on a new UN resolution to to give legal standing to the text and spell out to Saddam Hussein the consequences of a failure to honour it. Debate within the Council could quickly become contentious.

A first outline of the the Annan deal was sketched out to representatives of the five permanent Council members, including Britain and the United States, at the UN headquarters last night. Officially, however, the full scope of the deal will only become known when Mr Annan briefs the full Council today.

There was discernible optimism in New York that the package will indeed be enough to satisfy Council members that Iraq has yielded to demands that it comply once again with UN resolutions and allow the Work of the Special Commission on weapons inspections in Iraq (Unscom) to proceed unim-

anxious to hear the reaction of Richard Butler, the chairman of Unscom, who is due to return himself to Iraq next week. Mr Butler will be asked to express a view on whether the deal is workable or whether it in some way pollutes the integrity of Unscom's work. There are no technical or le-

gal requirements for the Council formally to respond to the Annan package. But diplomats in New York underlined yesterday the importance of a new UN resolution to acknowledge the Annan agreement and give it some legal foundation.

"Assuming that this deal is acceptable, then all of us will be anxious to nail it down," one European official said. He noted that there was no Council resolution following the Russian-brokered deal that ended the previous Iraqi stand-off last November, and that that agreement unraveled swiftly there-

There is a risk, however, that in debating such a resolution, the Security Council could once more expose its own divisions on the long-term handling of the Iraq situation. Britain, in particular, will be

seeking "the authority" of the

peded. Council members will be "by whatever means necessary", to any further breach of agreement by Saddam Hussein.

"It is important he is held absolutely to any agreement and that the allies can respond quickly to any further breach without needing to go through the various diplomatic rigmaroles," the Prime Minister's official spokesman said yesterday. "The key thing is to make sure he cannot do this again. We cannot keep moving planes and aircraft-carriers to the region every time he chooses to misbehave."

Asked about the implicit suggestion that the authority of a UN Security Council resolution would have been required for any further military action against Iraq, the spokesman said there had been different interpretations of the position. The Foreign Office last week

insisted that military action could have been carried out under existing resolutions, but the latest government position suggests that a specific resolution is now required.

It was not known what position the Government would take if the Security Council rejected an attempt to build ap-Security Council resolution to allow a rapid UN response, thing that is entirely possible. Iraqi regime



proval for military sanctions A Jordanian kissing a portrait of Saddam Hussein during into a new resolution - some- a demonstration in Baghdad yesterday in support of the

US stays silent and wants to see details

By Mary Dejevsky ın Washington

AS A MAJORITY of countries hailed yesterday's agreement between the United Nations and Iraq, the United States kept a studied silence, warily reserving judgement until it had access to the full details. Whether from the White House, Congress, or media pundits, the message was a non-committal and sometimes peevish: "wait and see", "show

me', "the devil's in the detail'. President Bill Clinton diverged only briefly from a scheduled address to state governors to say that he had been "working on the deal" and was consulting US allies. He had already had "a long talk" with the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and was planning calls to the French President, Jacques Chirac, and Russia's President, Boris Yeltsin. "We want to see the details," said a White House spokesman.

Administration officials, including the Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, and Defense Secretary, William Cohen, who spearheaded recent efforts to persuade the American public of the need for air strikes on Irao. were also holding back, apparently waiting for the President. Only the National Security Ad-

timism, saying the Administration would be "very pleased" if the

agreement met US demands. These include "full and unfettered access" to all suspected sites for UN weapons inspectors in Iraq, no time limit for inspections and no Iraqi veto on the composition of inspection teams.

From Congress, the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich, reiterated that any agreement must meet these requirements. He also called for "very significant penalties" for future non-compliance to be built into any new UN resolution on Iraq, which the US is expected to press for in the

Security Council. Mr Gingrich echoed a view widespread in US political circles that even if the immediate crisis was over, a new stand-off was likely within a month or two. Senator John McCain, Republican chairman of the Senate armed services committee, said in the short term "we have averted a situation where American lives would have

been lost", but "in the long term, ... I have received no indication Saddam Hussein has changed his commitment to acquiring and using weapons of mass de-

described Kofi Annan's mission to Baghdad as an example of "how the Administration's foreign policy is subcontracted to others" - ie the United Nations.

Both Mr Clinton and Mrs Albright had tried to head off domestic criticism of US policy in recent days by introducing the notion of the US "national interest" to justify US military action. Mrs Albright told a television interviewer on Sunday that the US reserved the right not to observe an agreement between the UN and Iraq if it did not correspond to US interests. Previously, Mr Clinton had stressed that the US was acting only in the framework of UN resolutions.

Any agreement now presents the United States with a dilemma. Commentators noted yesterday that the US risked finding itself "in a box" with international opinion: saddled with an inadequate agreement. but unable to act for political reasons. With more than 30,000 troops, hundreds of planes and dozens of ships on alert in the Gulf region, the US has flaunted its preparations for military action to the point where failure to act risks being interpreted as a US climbdown. But the political cost to the US of acting struction". The Senate Repub-unilaterally is higher now than viser, Sandy Berger, evinced op- lican leader, Trent Lott, it was before the agreement.



Star attraction: Maria Callas was one of the many great names to perform at Venice's La Fenice opera house

Venice's grand opera descends to farce

By Andrew Gumbel in Venice

TWO YEARS on from the fire that left it gutted, Venice's La Fenice opera house - The Phoenix - was doing a remarkable job of living up to its name and rising from the ashes. Until last week, that is.

Eight months into the rebuilding, work has come to a halt following a ruling from the Council of State that the competition for the rebuilding contract was conducted improperly.

. The company that won the competition has been disqualified and ordered off the site. The government commission charged with the reconstruction of La Penice - which in its heyday attracted such stars as Maria Callas - has been forced to start its paperwork from scratch. All over town, red-



squealing with indignation. And nobody knows how long it will take to get the cranes working again behind the makeshift wooden hoardings on Campo San Fantin. "This is doing great damage, to the city and the faced officials have been country... We're going to have

to throw away billions of lire." fumed the mayor of Venice,

Massimo Cacciari. The dispute centres on an apparently minor part of the project - a house attached to the Fenice building which is not part of the theatre and which was undamaged by the fire. Impregilo, the construction company that won the contract, left the house out of its plans, while all the others put it in.

The Council of State argued that the Impregilo proposal was incomplete and should never have been taken into consideration. The building site will have to be turned over to the second-placed company, an Italo-German consortium, led by Philip Holzmann. pregilo won because its shortof Munich. It remains to be seen how much of the completed work will have to be demolished. and how much of the building gear, painstakingly assembled by barges plying the narrow canals, can be kept on site.

In the best of cases, the reconstruction will be put back months, shattering dreams of a closed last week. grand millennial reopening. Impregilo will have to be paid several billion lire for work forced to buy the house adjacent in private hands and occupied by long-standing residents.

The Venice authorities could appeal against the Council of State ruling, but this would be so risky and time-consuming three weeks, defying the odds

"Our plans for the inauguration in December 1999 are we'll have the theatre ready in Spring of summer of 2000. said the prefect of Venice, Vincenzo Barbati, who is also the son. "We have to plan our searebuilding.

reaucratic cheese-paring. But closer inspection of the comstrange decisions - the result of remain unanswered.

A dispute has brought rebuilding work to a half on La Fenice opera house (left), which was gutted by

Photograph: David Rose

incompetence or, as many Venetians suspect an indulgent attitude towards Impregilo. a subsidiary of Italy's biggest and politically most powerful industrial conglomerate, Fiat.

All the evidence suggests the city intended to include the residential housing in the new Fenice project; councillors had even written to the residents, warning them that they might have to sell. Once the competition was launched, Holzmann specifically asked Mr Barbou's predecessor as prefect. Giovanni Troiani, whether the housing should be included. He replied with a circular letter to all entrants saying it should, "from the roof down to the ground".

It appears that Impregilo relied on an ambiguity in the circular referring to "the south wing of the theatre", not the south wing of the building as a whole. During the adjudication process, Holzmann's project - by the late Aldo Rossi was deemed the most pleasing. aesthetically speaking, but Imcut made the reconstruction faster and cheaper.

Foul play? If nothing else, the fiasco has embarrassed Mr Cacciari and his image as a straight-dealing, competent mayor. "If anyone has messed up I want to know about it." he thundered as the building site

The affair has infuriated the management at La Fenice. which until now has maintained completed and the city will be a full programme of events at its temporary home, a prefabto the theatre, half of which is ricated tent of a theatre erected on Il Tronchetto, an island built on an old rubbish tip that is now the biggest car park in Europe. After the fire, the socalled PalaFenice went up in that they have decided not to. to get the 1996 season started on time.

For the reopening, La Fenice definitely sunk. If we're lucky had scheduled Riccardo Muri to conduct a choral concert, followed by a production of 1/2st and Isolde directed by Bob Wilcommissioner in charge of sons two years in advance, but now we don't know where we It is tempting to interpret the stand," said theatre spokesman Council of State decision as bu- Cristiano Chiarot. His desk was strewn with requests from foreign embassies and big compapetition procedure suggests the nies for opening night tickets. For Venice commission made some now, they are going to have to

Deal struck in row over Nobel landmine activist

JODY WILLIAMS, co-ordinator of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, has been eased into a largely ceremonial post at a conference of the organisation in Frankfurt. Ms Williams, who shared last year's Nobel Peace Prize with the movement she helped found, was stripped of her title and named one of three "international ambassadors". Relations between Ms Williams and the movement became strained after she refused to donate ber share of the Nobel Prize to the

18 die in Algeria train blast

A BOMB exploded under a train, killing 18 people and injuring 25, Algerian state radio reported. The bomb was set off near El Affroune, 12 miles from Algiers. There was no claim of responsibility but the area was known for attacks by the Armed Islamic Group. Bombs also ripped out a section of Algeria's biggest gas pipeline, an industry source confirmed.

PW Botha sticks to his guns

PW BOTHA, South Africa's former president, told a court he had committed no crime by refusing to testify about the war against majority rule. He is accused of failing to honour a subpoena to testify before the Truth and Reconciliation

Croats terrorise refugees

CROATS made fascist salutes and burnt Serbian symbols at a rally intended to intimidate Serb refugees in eastern Croatia. Eastern Slavonia was UN-administered for two years and returned to Croatian rule last month.

Kidnappers granted talks

PRESIDENT Eduard Shevardnadze agreed to meet a representative of gunmen holding three UN observers and their Georgian driver hostage. The gunmen support the former president Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

Mussolini's car up for sale

THE car that Mussolini and his mistress used in their failed attempt to flee Italy in 1945 will be sold next month, Brooks auctioneers said. The 1940 Fiat 2800 Berlinetta is believed to be one of only three built and the only one to survive. --- Reuters, Genevo

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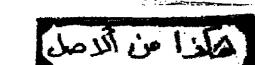
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Teen love gets serious

Children are having sex younger than ever. So why do so many not use contraception?

Ann Treneman finds out

EVERY morning 13-year-old Aaron Melville gets up and watches Teletubbies with the prospective mother of his child, 16-yearold Susan Turner. Sometimes they join the Teletubbies in having a bit of toast. Then Aaron goes to school and Susan settles down in front of the television. "Susan loves cartoons," says Aaron, who is saving £5 out of

his pocket money every week for the baby. Their story should have been just another childhood romance. Aaron teased Susan - a classmate at Bell Baxter School in Cupar, Fife - about her shoes, "He'd run along the corridor shouting 'shiny shoes. shiny shoes'," says Susan. "I liked him. He was really cute." So cute, in fact, that they. started going out together. They say things went slow at first. "We started going out on 28 February, we first kissed at the end of March. Things didn't get really serious until May," says Aaron. Things got really serious, though, after Susan got pregnant during a caravanning holiday.

Their parents were shocked - though they too had been on that caravanning boliday - not at the sex but at the lack of conraception. "I thought they were using contraception," says Aaron's mum. But, Susan explains, she wasn't on the Pill and she hates condoms. Now she is busy drawing up a schedule for Aaron to follow after the baby arrives at the two-bedroom council house they share with Aaron and his parents in Auchtermuchty.

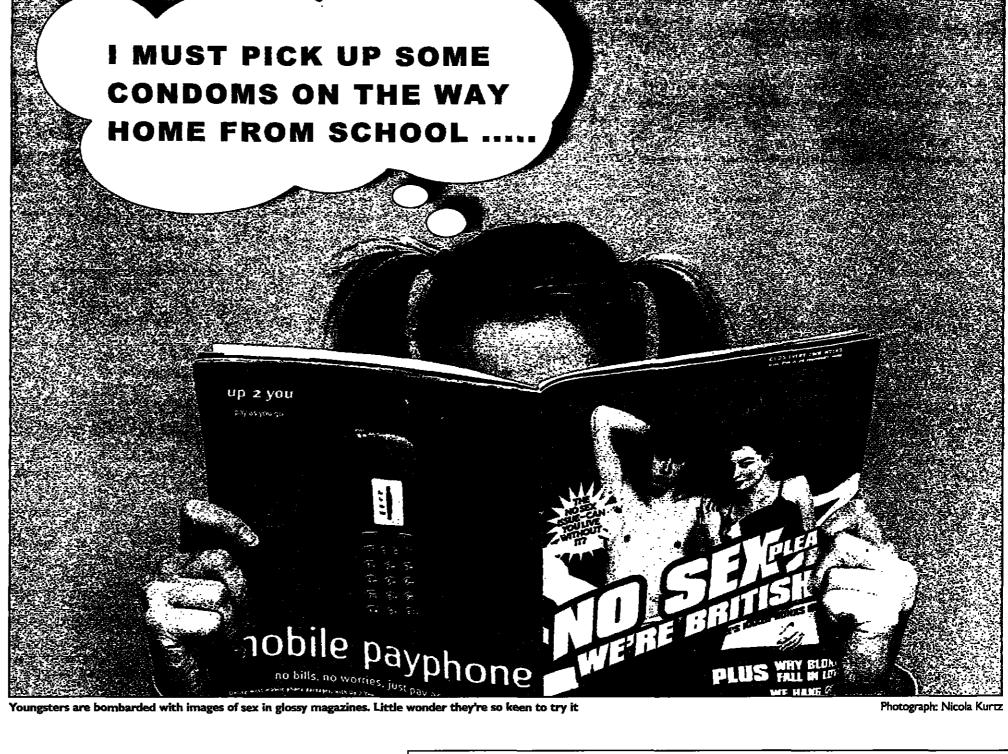
They told their story yesterday to the Daily Mail. It was a good day to do so, for, running alongside, was the paper's lead story of the day, headlined "One in 10 Girls on Pill by 15". Clearly Susan was one of the nine who wasn't. As such, she provided a welcome blast of reality to match the Mail's blast of morality.

No parent likes to think that their child is having sex, and yet Brook Advisory Centres say that the age at which young people today report their first experience of sex is 14 for girls and 13 for boys. (The age at which a majority of 16 to 24-year-olds lost their virginity was 17, however).

Reasons for this vary from the fact that puberty arrives earlier these days - many eight-year-old girls are now considered prepubescent - to the fact that we live in a "Wonderbra" society where sex is used to sell everything from ice cream to insurance. Teenage magazines are bursting with advice on the subject (as well as featuring some rather inventive sexual positions to have a go at). Sex and young girls is everywhere. In fact, if you had turned a few pages in yesterday's Mail you would have found another example in a story about a 12-yearold model in full make-up and very few cothes. "What kind of mother would allow a daughter of 12 to pose like this?" asked the headline.

Good question - though it must be said nat the paper did run a rather large picure of said daughter - and many of the ame people I spoke to yesterday who hought it only sensible that young girls having sex obtain contraception were much less comfortable with the idea of a 12-year-old in sexy clothing. But, though that is an extreme example, today's teenagers do grow up in a sex-saturated world and it is hardly surprising that they are so keen to try it.

We have a snigger approach to sex. says Phillip Hodson, agony uncle and author of the book What Kids Really Want to Know About Sex. "We make it sound so in-



teresting. I mean, what are we talking about here? There are something like 42 basic positions and only so many things you can do. You can reduce this whole thing to a matter of boredom if you try. Instead we give it all of these almost magical properties."

The Mail, however, lives in a much simpler world, though it is not necessarily an accurate one. The Department of Health yesterday had tracked down the study used in the contraception story and said the figures were released three weeks ago. It showed that 59,000 girls under the age of 15 - i.e. one in 10 - did make contact with a family planning clinic. But, of those, only 23,000 actually sought advice on the Pill and other methods. "That means that 3.9 per cent of under 16s or, to be precise, one in 25.5 sought this," said a Department of Health spokesman.

Not exactly one in 10. Nor, according to Brook Advisory Centres, are any girls handed the Pill with no questions asked. "It's not like we are out on the street handing out contraceptives to teenagers who are not already having sex." says Alison Hadley of Brook. She says that 98 per cent of the girls who come to the centres are already sexually active. "Recent research shows that up to a third of under 16s are sexually active. If only one in 10 are attending clinics for advice and contraception, clearly many more should be asking for help."

The Government would agree. Britain has the highest level of teenage pregnancy in Europe and the Department of Health has set up two working groups to study unwanted pregnancies. They are due to report to a mini-summit this spring and it is safe to say that we pay too high a price for teenage pregnancy for it to join those who want clinics banned from giving contraception to under-16s. "If they are going to have sex, then it is best that they do so safely and don't fall pregnant," said a Department of Health spokesman.

It is sensible advice, and all evidence shows that it is only sex education that manages to delay teenage sex. Here, perhaps Britain can learn from Holland, where there is a prime-time TV programme. called Sex With Angela for "sex starters". "In Holland they are called sex starters. In Britain we call them under-age law-breakers," says Phillip Hodson. "You simply couldn't do it here." And that is too bad, because it is precisely the kind of thing that a young girl named Susan Turner who likes cartoons might have seen before she decided she didn't like condoms and got pregnant instead.

PRETTY SCHOOLGIRL OR SEX OBJECT?

ELIZABETH PRESTON, who turns 13 today, is a young model with her eye on the big time. She wants to be a Kate Moss or a Naomi Campbell and sees nothing wrong with having posed in scanty clothing as part of that aim. Nor. it seems, does her mother.

"When I saw the first modelling picture I just thought she looked beautiful. I honestly believe if you have it, use it," she said yesterday. She refused to comment on criticism from family groups that she was not protecting her daughter.

Yesterday the London agency that has signed Elizabeth defended the photographs, dismissing claims they made her look like a sex object. "This has all been taken out of context. We took 200 shots and this is the only one



Sarah Thomas: Left school early to model

that looks like that. We are not projecting her as a vampish woman. She is a lovely, very mature 13-year-old," said Phil Jeremy of Model Plan. He pointed out that the feature in the Daily Mail was supposed to be a "lifestyle" feature. Instead, the paper chose to make a moral issue of it. He says that so far Eliza-

beth has gone on some "go sees" during half-term last week. The agency would be looking for her to work for teenage magazines and clothing catalogues. Her mother plans to send her to college in Winchester to take A-levels, leading to a degree in music and drama. "Of course, that may change if my modelling takes off," adds Elizabeth.

You can count on it, and she wouldn't be the first, though she would be among the youngest. Vivienne Westwood caused a storm at last year's London Fashion Week for using 13-year-olds on the catwalk. Model Rachel Kirby was "discovered" at the age of 12. Even the industry sees such

young girls as vulnerable - especially in this age of heroin chic. Older models, such as Paula Hamilton, have called for laws to safeguard young girls. She started modelling at 15 and developed a cocaine habit that took years to beat.

Last year, Sarah Thomas, from the Norfolk village of Swardeston decided to leave school, five months into A-level studies in maths, physics and design technology. She has since landed a lucrative contract to promote shampoo on American television. The deal puts her in the same bracket as supermodel Yasmin Le Bon.

That would be Elizabeth's dream too, and although she says it wouldn't change her a bit, she adds: "Just think, one day I could be on the front

The jacket fitted. Now I was James Dean

REVELATIONS: PHILL JUPITUS

The time: Autumn 1993 The place: Lakeside Shopping Centre, Thurrock, Essex The man: Phill Jupitus,

THE THING that changed my life was buying the jacket I am wearing. As a kid my mum dressed me and when I started choosing my own clothes we were in the hinterland of flares and hipsters. As a chubby person, they just did not belong on me. Your leg flares in an inverse proportion to your trousers so you look like an elephant. I would go down Prisea market to buy clothes - a Moroccan bazaar which in my eyes had everything. It was the zenith of style in Essex. You could buy things like patches with amusing slogans to sew onto your jeans. I had one from the "my other car is a Porsche" school of wit. I start buying my own gear at 17 and it was a nightmare. I remember going out with my first girlfriend and I was wearing one of my mother's jumpers with a big collar, a combat jacket, flares and green flash plimsoils. I was

standing in the queue of Basildon's ABC cinema and a guy came up and asked whether I was a girl. So I got a haircut and started copying the jeans and Tshirts my mates were wearing but it was never a look. It never felt personal.

Through the Eighties all these great fashions were going by but nothing was clinging to me and making me feel good. Even working in the music industry I never could get my clothes together. I was on the road with the Housemartins in an unstylish capacity. Fortunately they were also not reknown for their fashion sense so I did blend into the anorak mêlée of the day. At the time it was considered shallow to go with Peter York and the Saville Row look - we were all too angry to go shopping!

At 31, I left the record company and started doing standup, which made me even more aware of my appearance. Now I really did need to find "the look" because I was doing four or five gigs a week. The London comedy circuit was very much



the province of the jeans and the loose casual shirt, which I went along with. I tried an Oxfam suit but it didn't feel right. Nothing made me feel special.

In 1993 I went shopping with my wife in Lakeside and decided to buy a leather jacket. The terrible thing with "extra large" in this country, and I'm not just saying this because I'm big, is that it's just a variable of medium. I tried on an "extra large" in British Home Stores, but crushingly it was too tight. I became disheartened and gave up on the idea of a leather jacket. Then my wife was looking at some clothes in Next and my young cousin against the elements. Leather ends on I May in Harrogate.

ets. I told her they would never fit me but she insisted that I tried one on. I went over, slipped into this jacket - it was loose! I zipped it all the way up and it was nearly baggy. I looked on the label and it was just an "extra large". I expected it to have come from the rack with "freak" or "hefty outcasts" written above it. I waited for Beadle to leap out and shout, "You've bought the big stupid jacket." From the start, I just felt it was mine. Being so used to delving and digging or going to specialist shops, it was wonderful to be in clothes from a normal high street shop. Something else that gave me a boost - which is quite pathetic - is that after buying the jacket I read a copy of FHM and it was listed in the top 10 jackets. I thought, this is me: I'm that big fat bloke in the leather jacket. My stand-up had previous-

been quite slow and low

key, now at certain points the

jacket did the gig for me! I came

across a bit more aggressive be-

cause I felt indestructible. In

this jacket, I always see myself

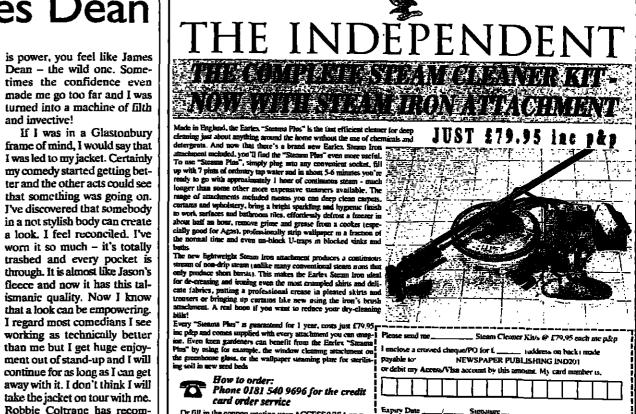
on a windswept hill, me and it

Kelly spotted some more jack-

times the confidence even made me go too far and I was turned into a machine of filth and invective! If I was in a Glastonbury

frame of mind, I would say that I was led to my jacket. Certainly my comedy started getting better and the other acts could see that something was going on. I've discovered that somebody in a not stylish body can create a look. I feel reconciled. I've worn it so much - it's totally trashed and every pocket is through. It is almost like Jason's fleece and now it has this talismanic quality. Now I know that a look can be empowering. I regard most comedians I see working as technically better than me but I get huge enjoyment out of stand-up and I will continue for as long as I can get away with it. I don't think I will take the jacket on tour with me. Robbie Coltrane has recommended a tailor.

Interview by Andrew G Marshall Phill Jupitas' 'Star Wars' inspired tour "Jedi Steady Go" starts on 5 March in Ipswich and



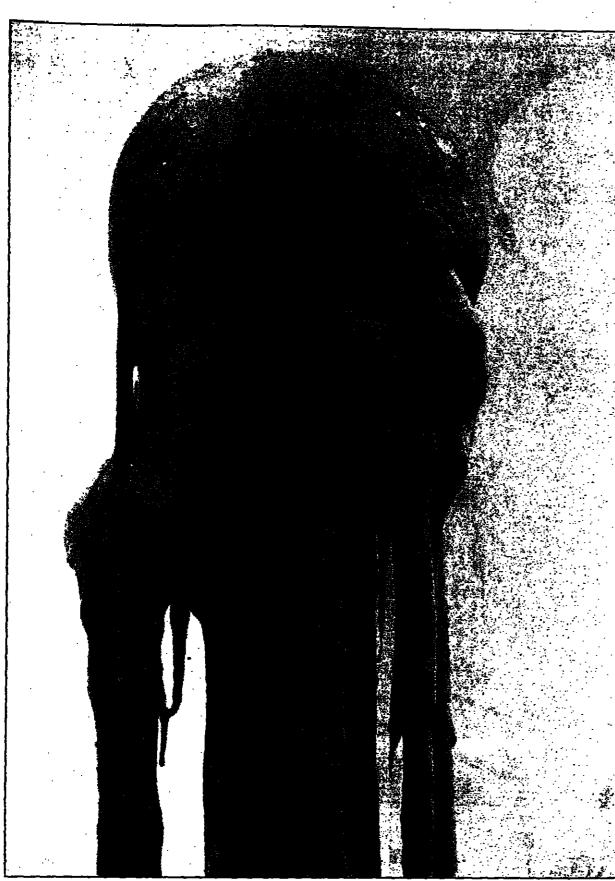
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What a work of art is man 'm



'Raspberry Nervous Breakdown': too close to the sci-fi horror effects it invokes?

From a blood-filled head to a figure in a deep freeze, Marc Quinn has assembled quite a body of work - mostly his own. Tom Lubbock sees his new show

Sometimes I think to myself: come on, just admit it, you are yourself, at heart, a Young British Artist ~ that's your sensibility, your fancy; you like to dwell on turds and foetuses and dismembered corpses and general perving, you enjoy philosophical conceits and art in jokes; and, if fate had dealt differently, if you were really true to yourself, that's the kind of art you'd make too. I confess, it is so. This thing of darkness I acknowledge mine: yes, just my thing. But ...

But it's more complicated than that. Because the kind of art that you might, at a pinch, make yourself isn't necessarily the kind of art you love when you see it. It may well be exactly the kind of art you don't love at all. And this can spring not only from the humble thought, "I could do that, there-

fore it's no good," or the envious thought, "The bastard's got there first," or even the expansive thought, "I can get this at home, I want something more different from me."

For you can also recognise, quite honestly, that your own inner artist is not actually a very admirable one; that the creative imagination you've been imbered with doesn't do you much credit. And so, when you find this imagination displayed in someone else's work ... well, you always have a particularly sharp eye for your own foibles in other people. You know them better, you see them clearer, you come down harder. Indeed, remarking them so starkly in others can be the very thing that brings on the sorry self-awareness.

I start like this because, if there's one YBA I feel that mutatis mutandis I could very well be, it's Marc Quinn. He's best known for his Self, his own head cast in nine pints of his frozen blood; and with his work generally - human body-stuff that's queasy, cheeky, brainy in a rather abstract way, a bit old-fashioned even - I understand just where it's coming from. It's pretty near what my own inner artist's work would be like, and seeing it has helped me to know that. And if self-knowledge, however irksome, is a good in itself, then I should be grateful. Besides, any sense of affinity can't but generate some sympathy and fondness too. So it was with something like an eager personal interest that I went to Quinn's new show.

Dull and magniloquent, vivid but stupid, superb, superb, really got something, less so, quite amusing, boring, crap, crap, bafflingly pointless crap: that would be a short list of summary judgements on the dozen pieces here. Body-morphing is the main action. Moulds of a body (Quinn's own) in various media (rubber, lead, glass, ice) are involved in transformations and catastrophes, to create sculptures that are both startling physical specimens and metaphors for mind or identity in flux and peril. And with this mix of gross-out plus powerfulcum-corny existential themes, my sense of affinity is strong; though Quinn's cheekiness can become unsympathetically crude.

The two melty rubber pieces, for in-

stance, are just too melodramatic, take them

The fact that Quinn is a bit of a fatso gives a nudge of comedy to the whole project

as scare-monsters or psyche-symbols. In work, Eternal Spring, where vases of sun-flow-Stripped, an upright naked body is submerged in its own dribbling meltdown, like a wine-bar candle. In Raspberry Nervous Breakdown, a head stock on a pole dissolves in long red and white drooting strands that to disassociate myself completely. puddle on to the floor, as if it had been pulled up out of a fondue. This isn't far enough from the sci-fi horror effects it invokes. This was the "vivid but stupid" part.

But Spherical Morphology ("really got something"), though it takes a hint from Terminator, is cooler and more inventive. Blobs of back-silvered glass that look like giant mercury drops are grouped in splashformation on the floor. A central wiggly radpole-like one bears the artist's face, just

emerging smaller surrounding drops extrude into a hand or a penis, others are just plain. shiny little globules. The body separates and divides into liquid metal, perhaps about to re-form and rise again - unnerving, funny. pathetic, and a proper sculpture 100.

Three pieces called Study for Approach. ing Planck Density are superb - small round mounds of folded metal that are in fact lead casts of Quinn's skin, compacted like suddealy dropped trousers, or as if imploded and flattened under enormous pressure. You can make out a collapsed head or foot or hand in the general squash: a parcelled bog-man, the body reduced to a tablet of itself, but with a nod too to Michelangelo's image of a flaved skin with his own face in The Last Judgement. A question, though: why always his own

body, when the work isn't in any real way about Quinn himself? My own inner artist would never encourage the use of my own body - I'd have done the morphing on a famous statue or something. Granted that sounds pretty crass, but the fact that Quinn is a bit of a fatso does give a nudge of comedy to the whole project - unlike that other self-caster, Antony Gormley, the general solemnity of whose oeuvre is certainly convenienced by his being a fine figure of a man. As for the much-publicised Across the Universe - his whole body cast in ice, in a sealed chamber, mysteriously evaporating - it's only an enlargement and a dilution of one aspect of the frozen blood head.

So too the only non-body ers are preserved, life-in-death, in vitrines of frozen silicon. Once again, the blood head did this riff already, more richly, and the Van Gogh reference is daftly boring. Here I want

Still, overall, the identification survives and thrives: it's near enough my own imagination on show. And, I suppose, this is one of the ways creativity often operates, not taking you into another world, but bodying out things you might almost have thought of too, things you know inside out - letting you feel, with wishful regret or with thankful relief: there, but for the grace of art, go I. To 8 March; South London Gallen; 65 Peckham Rd, London SE5 (0171-703 6120)

In the tortured steps of Egon Schiele

Lea Anderson has created a dance from the works of the Austrian expressionist. Looks painful, says Louise Levene

The Independent tashior Spring 98 special Art and fashion are having a fling. Our 48-page fashion special gets you up to date with the latest from both worlds. Sarah Moon photographs this spring's newest looks in the spirit of the season's muse, Frida Kahlo. Go behind the scenes with Vivienne Westwood as she explains the inspiration behind her new advertising campaign. And see exclusive pictures by Richard Billingham, star of the Royal Academy's Sensation show. fashion fashion Free with The Independent Saturday 28 February

do with her own sketches when looking for inspiration for new shelves are lined with scrapbooks packed with images. "I've got books of fledgling ideas, more developed ideas and loads and loads and loads of Egon Schiele." The published sketches of

all-male group The Featherstonehaughs, celebrating their 10th anniversary this year. Essentially these are the lost dances of Egon Schiele. Anderson (who studied at St Martins School of Art before doing her dance training at the Laban Centre) sees the sketches as stills taken from a forgotten dance: "The paintings are incredibly anatomically correct and exciting. The muscles and the tension in the bodies is so tangible it lends itself naturally as source material for movement." Anderson has been hatching this posthumous collaboration for over five years but it is her habit to spend a long time incubating her dances. "I usually make my own pictures and drawings and collect things for up to two years before a show to create

Lea Anderson normally makes a structure, to see how it will work spatially." It has to be said that many

dance pieces. Her workroom's choreographers would regard dancers' bodies in the studio as the ideal means for establishing whether something will "work spatially" but Anderson has a CV to prove the efficiency of her working method. In addition to her work with the Austrian expressionist her two groups The Cholhave formed the basis for mondeleys and The Feather-Anderson's latest work for her stonehaughs she has also been prolific in opera and theatre, choreographing ENO's Khovanschina and Sam Mendes'

Did she find that using Schiele's way of seeing provided her with a fresh set of ideas? Could we look forward to the lost dances of Michelangelo or Rodin or Beryl Cook? "I don't think so. This has been a very particular thing. I wanted to throw myself out of familiar ways of working but not so much that I didn't know how to work. It's up to me to decide what to do with the sketches. But using them makes sure that I can't resort to tricks or make things work in a way I know they will. It's been a challenge to me but it hasn't taken things out of my hands.

The costumes are by Sandy

Powell (famous for her work on Caravaggio. Edward II, Orlando and Wings of a Dove). Given Schiele's notorious fondness for the naked body it is perhaps a surprise that Anderson didn't opt to dispense with the costume budget entirely but she has a bit of a problem with stage nudity. "I think it's very complex and it's very hard to deal with. We've decided not to use real nudity but expressionist nudity." This turns out to be fleshcoloured suits painted with muscles, bruises, pubic hair et al to mimic the tortured bodies of Schiele's drawings.

The six Featherstonehaughs have had to work hard to get inside Schiele's figures. "They were a bit baffled at first but they've been staring at it all day every day to reproduce the shapes and they've become incredibly sensitive to the work. You have to make a sequence that requires fluid movement through maybe 50 of the paintings. It's been a challenge but one that they've really risen to."

'The Featherstonehaughs draw on the sketchbooks of Egon Schiele', 24-28 Feb, The Place, 0171-387 0031 and touring



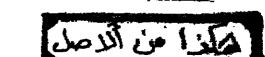


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Why I have to hurt myself

What can be done to help people whose inner turmoil leads them to mutilate themselves? David Batty finds out

unlikely way to prevent suicide, the only way to release the distress she had bottled up for so long. Years of physical, sexual and mental abuse had left her unable to express her feelings. At her lowest point, she thought that death would be the only release from this constant anxiety. She made several abortive attempts to hurt herself, on one occasion trying to slit her wrists with blunt scissors. Six years ago she finally succeeded, smashing a mug against her bedroom wall and cutting open her left palm with the broken pieces. But to her surprise, and despite her

pain, she felt relief. "I felt a connection with a part of myself that I'd shut away for so long," recalls Ms LeFevre, 43, from Dolgellau in North Wales, "At last I seemed to have reached the traumas I'd buried so deeply, which gave me a ignoring my self-harm that it strange sense of achievement."

Over the next few months, Ms LeFevre learned how to cut herself more safely. "I soon realised you could guide a razor blade better than broken crockery - the cut was cleaner and healed better," she explains. "I also tried to make sure I had bandages or a towel handy to mop up the blood, and would shut myself in the bathroom here I wouldn't be disturbed. Getting into a routine helped me to control the need to harm myself, and my injuries became less serious."

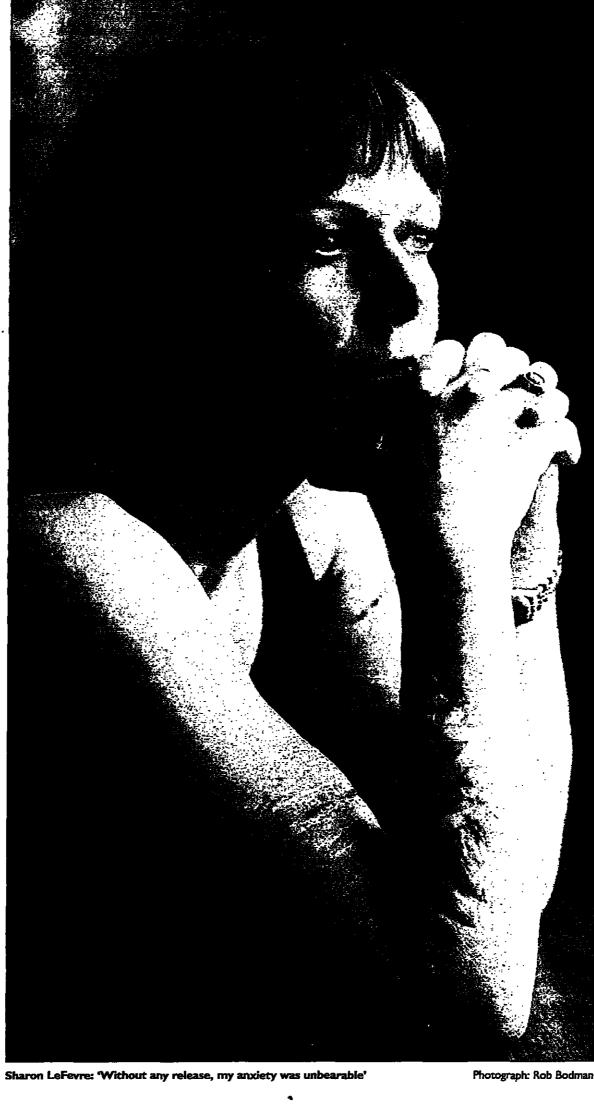
Despite her care, Ms LeFevre eventually needed medical help after misjudging a cut. "I was bleeding heavily, so a friend took me to the local Accident and Emergency department," she recalls, "But the doctors and nurses were im-

CUTTING yourself seems an was just an attention seeker and wasting their time. In fact, I tried but Sharon LeFevre found this to only cut myself when I was alone and always hid my scars. But no one asked me what was wrong, or showed any concern. They only seemed interested in punishing me. On another admission, I was even stitched up without anaesthetic. It was so painful, I didn't realise what was happening at first. I was crying and screaming but the staff completely ignored me."

Yet Ms LeFevre continued to harm herself and was eventually transferred to a psychiatric unit. "I encountered the same negative attitudes," she says. "If I wanted to get counselling. I had to agree not to injure myself, and if I tried explain why I did, I was told to shut up. I didn't see how it could be separated from my sexual abuse, they were so bound together. But the staff seemed to hope by would go away. Without any release, my anxiety was unbearable. So, I decided to act like a 'good patient' to get discharged and be able to cut myself again. Of course, that soon became a vicious circle."

Then in 1993, Ms LeFevre was referred to Dryll y Car, an eight-bed support unit in Gwynedd, which aims to empower clients to take control of their lives. Although encouraged to develop other means of expressing her pain, through art therapy and counselling, she was not criticised for cutting herself if she felt unable to cope oth-

"The staff recognised that self-harm was my survival strategy. "They accepted it wasn't something I could just snap out of, so tried to help me minimise my injuries. The agreement mediately hostile, telling me I was that I used clean razor



blades and had access to a first worth, and the punitive treataid kit, which reduced the risk of my wounds becoming infected."

Having this responsibility for her actions enabled Ms LeFevre to manage her selfharm more effectively. "It was such a relief not to be judged," she says. "The abuse I had suffered had left me with little self-

ment I received in hospital just confirmed my belief that I was a bad person and didn't deserve compassion. But the staff at Dryll y Car helped me see it more positively, accepting it as a coping strategy. I didn't feel

such a failure and began to get back on with my life." Ms LeFevre now runs work-

shops in A&E departments across Britain, with the hope of challenging the medical profession's attitude towards selfharm. She has also written a book, Killing Me Sofily, based on her own experiences, which describes self-harm as an intermediate language for trau-

matised individuals.

not fully recovered from her traumas, she believes that learning to manage her self-harm has allowed her to get on with life. "It may not be a great way of surviving but it has kept me alive," she says. "I've been able to complete a drama degree and start a PhD at Aberystwyth University, so no one can say I'm a waste of space anymore."

not as groovy as it sounds

Hip hop: it's



DR PHIL HAMMOND

Hip hop – your questions an-

What is hip hop? Hip hop is a severe pain in an artificial hip that forces you to hop on your good leg to avoid it. Alas, many British patients suffer in silence because they think if their hip fails early, it must be their fault. On average, 10 per cent fail to make it to 10 years but some pack up much sooner, requiring a bigger and more painful revision operation.

And whose fault is that? It's either a problem with the hip itself or the person putting

Let's take hips first. This Capital prosthesis that's just flunked. The Independent said "it was never tested".

Have I got bad news for you. There are more than 60 different types of hip prosthesis used in the UK - only a handful have good published results

work well and which don't. And at the Nuffield Centre in Oxford, they've used an X-ray technique called RSA which detects minute movements of marker beads inserted at the time of the operation. This can predict which new prostheses are likely to fail far more quickly than conventional X-rays.

Hang on. If the older prosthesis have good results and new er been bettered, why bother with expensive new ones?

What a paive little world you inhabit. As one consultant put it, "Drug companies are not much different from arms manufacturers. They fly us all out to Florida, pamper us, brainwash us and then get us to use their latest fancy prosthesis. Whether we like it or not, we're all in their pocket."

Shouldn't Mr Dobson just tell everyone to go back to Stanmore or Chamley?

If only it were that simple. Some orthopaedic surgeons like trying out every new gadget on the market but others are creatures of habit and prefer to stick to what they know.

So, if they got hooked on a dodgy prosthesis from an early age, it's very hard to wean them off even in the face of the evidence. One consultant explained: "I personally would never use the Ring Hip but I know senior surgeons who still do. It's all they know."

What about junior surgeons? A study published in the Journal of Bone Medicine in 1996 found that Charnley and Stanmore replacements car-

'Drug companies are not much different from arms manufacturers. They fly us to Florida, pamper us and brainwash us'

have good long term (over 10 years) results - the Charnley and Stanmore implants.

So there are more than 50 others floating around in people's bodies that could all go the same way as the Capital?

I think you're being unduly alarmist. Hip replacements are one of the big success stories of modern medicine and 90 per cent of them in the UK seem to go extremely well.

Why seem? Well, we don't have an obligatory national register of orthopaedic implants like they do in Sweden, and without it most orthopaedic surgeons haven't got much of an idea how their implants do or which ones are

likely to fail prematurely. But surely, if you're hammering great lumps of untested metal into the top of someone's thigh bone, the least you could do is follow it up?

You obviously haven't met many orthopaedic surgeons. Most are far too busy doing the operations to take time out to trace the long-term consequences. However, some enthusiasts do it meticulously. John Chamley created a prothesis in the Sixties, provided the tools to put it in, trained other surgeons and followed up every single operation.

So we know it works? Absolutely. Also, in East Surrey, they keep a regional X-Ray register of all hip operations to spot which prostheses

over five years and only two ried out by junior trainees were revision compared to consultant operations. Anecdotally, a consultant told me that when he started operating he was left to do hips on his own and his registrar had to do a ward round in the evening to pop all the hips back in that had fallen out.

So what can I do to improve my chances?

In the NHS, nearly half of operations are done by juniors. If yours is, ask for it to be closely supervised by a consultant. Make sure the consultant does lots of these operations and ask to see an audit of the results. He'll probably go purple but it's worth a try.

Failing that, ask the health authority to provide the information. Your hip is your future, after all.

What about the prosthesis? You can't go wrong with Charnley or Stanmore, although they're hard to find because they've all been modified. Some modifications are good (e.g. the Elite) others are bad (e.g. the Capital). In the Exeter region, the Exeter hip has good results. Also, they wouldn't stick any old rubbish in the Queen Mum. She had the Furlong.

How do you know all this? Because we covered it in the last series of Trust Me, I'm a Doctor. The new series kicks off with all you need to know about cancer vaccines, cranberry juice and obesity on 3 March, BBC2, 8pm.

HOW SELF HARM CAN BE A SURVIVAL. STRATEGY – AND WHERE TO GET HELP

Since Princess Diana admitted she tried to cut her wrists, others have been encouraged to talk about their own experiences.

For some teenagers, selfharm is taking the place of eating disorders. Up to one in 50 adolescents hurt themselvs badly enough to warrant medical treatment or counselling.

"Self-harm is used as a survival strategy," says Mike Greenwood, acting nurse manager at Dryll y Car. "People only harm themselve when extremely distressed and are much calmer afterwards. It's a way for them to express unspeakable emotions, often related to traumas like sexual abuse or voice hearing. So, forcing

clients to give up self-harm removes the only control they feel to have over their lives. With no outlet for their anxiety, they feel helpless and may harm themselves more seriously. But if you give them responsibility for their actions. they can become less reliant on professional support. Most of our clients have reduced the level of their self-harm and a few have stopped it altogether."

Mr Greenwood admits that harm minimisation is a radical approach, but contends it is the only realistic one. "You cannot stop people from harming themselves but you can take measures to prevent them from accidentally severing an artery or tendon," he says. He runs training

sessions on self-harm for health professionals and has helped produce a new workbook Working with Self-Harm, due out in March, The work is part of the National Self-Harm Network's

campaign for better understanding of self-inflicted injury. The organisation recently launched an incident report to assess how self-

■ The National Self-Harm Network can be contacted via Survivors Speak Out, 34 Osnaburgh Street, London, NWI 3ND. For Working with Self-Harm, contact Community Integrated Care on 0151 420 3637. For information on workshops, contact Sharon

Lefevre on 07341 423263

departments

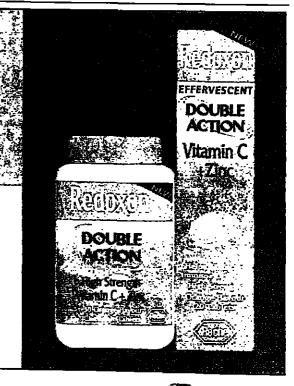
harmers are treated in A&E

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INDEPENDENT

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Taming Iraq takes more than might

KOFT ANNAN's accord with Saddam Hussein has a "peace in our time" feel to it. The respite is deeply welcome but none of the root causes of military stand-off in the Gulf have changed, let alone diminished. The UN Secretary-General is not Neville Chamberlain and the Iraqi dictator is not, however coloured the language used about him. Adolf Hitler. It is hard, however, to escape the sense that his brave mission has postponed rather than avoided armed conflict.

But none of that is a good reason why the Americans, let alone the British Government should not accept - as quickly as protocol allows - that the UN Secretary-General has carried out his mission to Baghdad admirably. If Saddam has now accepted terms for the inspection process that bring him back into compliance, if he allows expert UN inspectors full and unfettered access, that must end the threat of bombing. And if, for face saving, adjustments are made to the nationalities comprising the inspection teams and if they are accompanied by diplomats, does that in any way reduce their potential effectiveness? The answer is no. The American government cannot now change the rules of the game, at least not without losing what remains of the fig-leaf cover for American strategic interests in the Gulf offered by United Nations camouflage.

As for Britain, now is a moment for the our government to show that it is capable of independent analysis and appraisal. Kofi Annan has demonstrated that diplomacy works, albeit temporarily, albeit only because aircraft carriers and cruise missiles were concentrating minds all round. Saddam is not mad; on the evidence of the past few weeks he is on the contrary a wily calculator of the negotiating odds well capable of rational judgements about his own best interests. The lesson must surely be that more diplomacy is wanted, not less. Robin Cook should now gird himself for a bout of action involving the Russians, the French and, above all, Saddam's neighbours in the Middle East - including of course the Israelis. If the British, at this juncture, were to demonstrate an ounce of originality in their analysis, a spark of realisation that Britain has interests separate from and possibly (in the short run) antagonistic to those of the US, then the capacity of British ministers and officials to exert influence would be maximised Tony Blair's government seems to have been sucked into its present position if not quite in a fit of absence of mind then on the basis of knee-jerk support for what the current American government says are American interests. Mr Blair's loyalty to his pal is admirable but he might usefully pause to wonder whether Mr Clinton's judgement is always infallible.

For their part, the Americans, if they are wise, ought to welcome an opportunity to take a pace back and reflect. The agglomeration of armed might in the Gulf has been impressive and the world will doubtless have occasions in future to value the speed and effectiveness of America's planes and ships. Yet what has become apparent during the past few weeks are the limits of military strength. That the US could project force - launch any number of damaging air strikes - against Iraq is demonstrable. It still could. But in the absence of the diplomatic support across the region, let alone in the Security Council, the costs of unilateral action have grown; we did not need Tariq Aziz. Saddam's mouthpiece and deputy prime minister, to single out Britain to realise that this country shares not just America's strength but also its weakness.

What now? Unless the British government is going to commit itself to a permanent high-alert garrison in the Gulf, some situation of "normality" needs to be defined that would allow a military stand-down. "Normality" must also imply trade, or at least some increase in the wherewithal allowed the Iraqi regime to buy imports by selling oil. But is there a normality for am short of his being allowed to re-arm and return to a state in which lightning attacks on neighbours becomes possible? The Iraqi problem is, whatever else, a regional question; his best protectors, the bars in the cage that will be needed to confine him, are his neighbours, in Iran, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Russia. But there can be no movement on the regional front without confronting the principal regional problem (in Arab eyes) which is Israel or, to be more precise, the failure to grasp the opportunity offered by the Oslo accords to move the main Palestinian movement (the PLO) forward into responsibility and power.

Charity begins at the blockbuster

AUDIENCES for Titanic are being approached in cinema foyers by tin-shakers for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. If only the liner had sunk nearer the coast - this seems to be message - doughty lifeboatmen would have rescued Leonardo DiCaprio as well as Kate Winslet. The charity is hoping for generosity by association.

Perhaps there is a trend in the making here. Other charities are sure to want to cash in. The drugs rehabilitation organisations did, it's true, miss a trick with Trainspotting but there are plenty of films currently on show which ought to get the givers going. The Royal Mail benevolent society surely ought to shaking outside The Postman; while the RSPCA would make a fortune outside cinemas showing Paws, though perhaps not The Lost World or Starship Troopers, where the heasts have a hard time. Whether by contrast the NSPCC would benefit from Home Alone 3 or The Butchers Boy remains to be seen.

Still, charities supporting maxillo-facial reconstruction ought to do good business with The Boxer. Societies for the support of retired gentlewomen would surely be generously treated by patrons of Mrs Brown while Nacro, the association for the care of offenders, is bound to do well outside theatres showing Prisoner of the Mountains. The Council for the Protection of Rural England should hurry along to showings of The Woodlanders. As for Relate, the marriage guidance organisation, it can take its pick - from The Ice Storm to The Full Monty.



What if the UN says no?

IF THE United States rejects the deal brokered by Kofi Annan and takes unilateral military action against Iraq, will they be "defying the will of the international community" (and thus be liable for either sanctions or a military strike on themselves led by a coalition of the other UN members)? PAUL O'HANLON Runcom, Cheshire

IN RECENT days, British and US officials have spoken as if the UN Secretary General's job in Baghdad was to deliver instructions on their behalf. They should remind themselves of Article 100 of the UN Charter, para- Keele University, Staffordshire graph 2 of which states: "Each Member of the United Nations undertakes to respect the exclusively international character of the responsibilities of the Secretary General and the staff and not to seek to influence them in the discharge of their duties." MARTIN AITKEN

DR O'PREY says that the 1939-45 war "taught us that it is shortsighted and dangerous to humiliate and ruin a proud nation" (letter, 21 February), but our leaders have still not learnt that it was folly in 1919 to humiliate and ruin the Arabs.

London N7

They were divided between a multitude of governments, set up without consultation; one of their most sacred territories was designated for Western colonisation; and their oil wealth was placed in the hands of a tiny minority and used largely

to enrich the West. Britain has a major share of the blame for the subsequent growth of extremist movements. If we join the USA in bombing Iraq, we shall only reopen and deepen the wound. PISTEWART

DAVID AARONOVITCH (Comment, 21 February) is right in pointing out that the last Gulf war was a

It is important to remember that only something like 7 per cent of the tonnage dropped on Iraq and Kuwait was "smart". The rest was unguid-

LETTERS

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

ed, and targets were missed 70 per dren. Just why should it support. cent of the time. With 80,000 tons through the tax breaks you propose, dropped, civilian casualties were extremely high.

A second military adventure against Iraq would certainly kill and maim many innocent civilians. It would do nothing to bring democracy or justice to the region. Dr BULENT GOKAY

Lecturer in International Relations

IT SEEMS that if Kofi Annan's mission fails, war will be imminent. What safety precautions do we take to protect us against chemical warfare? HAREEN MARCELLINE Dyce, Grampian

Whitehall mothers

THE IMPLICATION that civil servants generally are benefiting from the 10 nursery places provided by the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions ("Worried about childcare costs? You're not a civil servant, then", 20 February) is ridiculous. The biggest childcare provider, the Ministry of Defence, only has 500 places. What of the rest?

Minimal, if any, provision. I have worked in the Civil Service since 1974 and have children now aged 20 and 10. Apart from two short breaks for maternity leave, I have continued to work since joining. I have never had regular childcare provision made available to me by my employer and have never been aware of any available at Civil Service sites in the areas I have lived or worked.

Despite campaigns by Civil Service unions, successive governments have not come up with anything meaningful for the vast majority of their employees with children. APRIL VESEY Ruislip, Middlesex

MY husband's salary supports himself, myself and our two small chil-

other people's working wives and their children's nannies as well? SALLY DEALLER Landon SE15

Nuclear waste storage

YOUR article on the storage of ra-Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston ("Nuclear dumps to run out of space by 2002, says report", 2 February) gives rise to unnecessary public concern.

It highlights a report by William Peden of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and suggests a picture of decay and potential danger because of the absence of a national nuclear waste disposal strategy following the scrapping of plans for the Nirex deep waste repository at Sellafield in Cumbria.

In fact, AWE Aldermaston does not have a space crisis for the storage of radioactive waste materials. Our plans for the treatment, storage and disposal of radioactive waste have never depended on the Nirex facility being available to us. We are well able to meet our future needs.

AWE produces three types of radioactive waste: low-level solid waste such as coveralls and filters; intermediate-level solid waste such as contaminated materials from process areas; and liquid effluent from cleaning processes. We do not produce any high-level waste such as that from the nuclear power industry.

The majority of our low-level waste will continue to be sent to the national disposal site at Drigg in Cumbria, which has ample capacity for this type of disposal well into the next century. The remainder and our intermediate level waste will continue to be placed in specially designed and approved containers and stored on-site in purposedesigned facilities.

Plans for a further waste store, which will be available by 2000, are well advanced. RABRADLEY Chief Executive AWE Hunting-Brae

A Mason — I admit it

Aldermaston, Berkshire

dioactive waste at the Atomic I AM not afraid or ashamed to declare that I am a Freemason and have way of jobs and training. Having been been for close on forty years ("Ma- forced to squander the most valuable sons escape forced exposure", 18 February).

In all that time, I have never known or heard of a Mason who derived unfair advantage from being a Mason. I have known Masons who contribute to various charities (and not only to help other Masons, as is often mistakenly stated). To be accepted as a Mason, it is a sine qua non to have a belief in a superior being. It is fairly widely known that the Duke of Kent is the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, Do those who imply that dubious conduct exists between Masons also imply that His Royal Highness would be the head of such an organisation?

Without Freemasonry, society would be the poorer. **EMILLER** Thanet, Kent

irvine's wallpaper

SURELY it is time to stop carping about the money the Lord Chancellor has spent refurbishing his apartments ("Irvine and the art of home decorating", 20 February). The architecture is distinguished and deserves appropriate decoration, paintings and furniture. It should not be forgotten that they belong to the nation and not to him. I for one am looking forward to visiting them on one of the open days which will surely be arranged this year. JOHN MITCHELL London SE13

Back to the Old Deal

THERE appears to be a large hole in the Government's policy towards young people, through which the nation's wealth and talent are rapidly disappearing.

Tens of thousands of pounds of tax-payers' money are spent on each child's education until they are 16. When young people reach 18 they have the "New Deal", a scheme whereby tax-payers' money is used to "buy" temporary jobs for long-

term unemployed youngsters. These long-term unemployed are the ones who left school two years earlier to discover there was virtually nothing available to them in the and influential two years of their working lives, they are then forced

into a stop-gap, dead-end job. It is unfortunate for the Government that the only tool it has available to tackle youth training problems is taxpavers' money. As an alternative it could consider transferring the whole of the vouth training programme to the private sector and using the old apprenticeship format, a scheme of the highest order that catered for all school-leavers. That would be a New Deal, and a much better deal. R HUMPHREY

Maidenhead, Berkshire

Foreign policy games

IS IT not time to close down foreign ministries?

Their primary functions seem to be to play elaborate games which may end in war, to turn sensible ideas about new forms of European cohabitation into a folly of technocratic infighting. and to conduct so-called "relations" with their opposite numbers in other countries, relations which warm and

cool like adolescent friendships. There is no longer any need for foreign policy". There are transnational economic systems and transnational social problems which need to be dealt with as rationally and fairly as we try to deal with national economies and problems. Dr PHILLP ALLOTT Trinity College, Cambridge

Notes to Eddie, and other fascinating pieces recovered from the House of Windsor



A FRIEND of mine was going to New York, to the sale of the effects of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, so I slipped her a few quid to see if she could pick up a bargain for me. And she did! It was the catalogue of the sale. I have been leafing through it, and I have to say it was money well spent, as some of the lots are most

intriguing, not to say exotic. I hate not to share these things with you, so today instead of the planned leisure feature (an article called "Decorate your lounge the Lord Irvine of Lairg way"). I am simply reprinting some of the more interesting items in the auction, which seem unaccountably not to have been mentioned elsewhere:

Lot 63. First Edition of Mein Kampf in German by Adolf Hitler, inscribed "from the author to his old friend, Eddie". Lot 89. Welsh miner's hat, inscribed "Property of Prince of Wales: industrial visits only".

There is a piece of paper tucked inside the helmet, on which is written: "Ideas for conversation with miners: 1) football 2) horse racing 3) So, what's this General Strike all about then?" Lot 182. Second Edition of Mein Kampf in German by Adolf Hitler, inscribed "from the author. The book is going well! Did you get your first copy? Drop me a line..." Lot 245, Welsh/English dictionary, unused. Lot 263. The actual passport as used by the Prince of Wales, giving his occupation as "Traveller, Broadcaster, Statesman, Sportsman, Honorary Miner, you name it ... Lot 277. Third Edition of Mein Kampf in German by Adolf Hitler, inscribed by the author: "From the next ruler of Germany to the next ruler of England - Vielen Grüss!" Lot 377. Note from the Prince of Wales to unidentified correspondent: "Do you think the British would wear the idea of having a king whose wife was American? And who had been

previously married? I would like to know what the country thinks about this. Perhaps you could organise a few focus groups and test public opinion. Thanks!" Lot 657. Fiftyninth Edition of Mein Kampf, in Czech, by Adolf Hitler. Inscribed by the author. "Did you get the previous fifty-eight copies I sent you? This is the first Czech edition! I am also having it translated into French, Polish, Norwegian and Russian! Don't ask why! PS What do you think of the idea of having Mein Kampf translated into Welsh? The Welsh are your people, of course, so I imagine they will rise to support you when I arrive!" Lot 996. Coronation robes of Edward VIII, marked: "Property of House of Windsor, please do not remove. HAVE DRY CLEANED ONLY." Lot 1,021. Sixty-third edition of Mein Kampf, in Belgian-French translation, inscribed by author, "Sorry couldn't make wedding, but here is wedding present for you and lovely Val-

lis!" Lot 1,065. The actual half-crown piece used by Edward VIII to decide whether to abdicate or not. Lot 1,066. A note from Edward VIII's equerry to his own wife, as follows: "Tonight I was present when His Maj decided that as he couldn't make up his mind whether to abdicate or not, he should toss for it. I argued that this was not the best way to decide future of Britain. He said he didn't care, he was tired of being told what to do by Baldwin, and by Wallis, and by Hitler ... 'By Hitler?' I said. 'Did I say Hitler?' he said. 'Sorry. Slip of the tongue.' I waited for him to toss. He didn't have a coin. Had to borrow half crown from me. He is hopeless, as usual. I waited for him to toss. Turned out he didn't know how to toss a coin. Always had it done for him. He asked me to do it for him. I said that on such important occasions it was vital he tossed it himself and absurd to expect me to do it. He whimpered

a bit and said nobody had ever talked to him like that before. "Except Wallis," he added. "And Baldwin." "And Hitler?" I said. "Yes," he said, blushing slightly. He then attempted to toss the coin. It rolled away and we spent half an hour looking for it. He wanted to borrow another coin and toss again, but I said only the first toss would count, so we would have to find the first coin and see if it was heads or tails ... Lot 1,233 Note from Duke of Windsor to unidentified aide: "I have been offered Governorship of Canada. Do you advise me to accept?" Lot 1,234 Note fromunidentified aide to Foreign Office: "Are you crazy, offering Canada to Duke of Windsor? He could no more run Canada than he could run his marriage!" Lot 1,235. Note from FO to aide: "Calm down. He may think he is going to Canada, but in fact we are sending him to Bahamas. He will never know the difference."

How the Iraqi mouse made the West's elephant dance



PATRICK COCKBURN

President Clinton had a bad crisis, Saddam Hussein a good one. The US still needs a credible Middle East policy

THE United States and Britain have achieved their narrow aim of obtaining unfettered access for UN weapons inspectors with no time limit on their activities imposed by Baghdad. By every other measure Saddam Hussein has succeeded through skilful management of the present crisis in escaping the political and economic isolation that defeat in the Gulf war placed Iraq seven years ago. "Saddam has certainly out-thought the Clinton administration," says Laith Kubba, an Iraqi opposition intellectual. "The US has behaved like an elephant with no brain, so even a mouse like Saddam can make it dance to his tune."

The very presence of Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General, in Baghdad this weekend marks the return of Iraq as a player in the Middle East. It showed that President Saddam is still in business and likely to remain so. It also underlines his success in using the dependence of the UN weapons inspection team (Unscom) on his co-operation to work in Iraq, a dependence which enables him to switch crises on and off at his own convenience.

Yesterday the Iraqi leader chose to switch off the crisis, probably well pleased with the gains he has made. This is masked by international focus on his biological and chemical weapons as a measure of his power. In fact Unscorn is only one of three methods employed by the US to contain Iraq since 1991 and probably the least effective. The other two are economic sanctions and the military alliance of the US, Britain and the south Gulf states created to fight the Gulf war. Both have been significantly weakened by the present

Economic sanctions have been partially lifted by the decision of the UN Security Coun- in 1991 but the threat of retaliation deterred cil to increase the value of oil Iraq is allowed him from using them. The inhibition should to export every six months from \$2.1bn (£1.3bn) to \$5.2bn. The Iraqi response is to object to the whole arrangement, saying that it cannot export more than \$4bn without repairing oil equipment damaged in the first Gulf war. But the Security Council can hardly will the end without willing the means. Presumably spare parts will be allowed through. In effect Iraq will be able to export about two million barrels a day of crude oil, which is two-thirds of its export level before sanctions were imposed in August 1990.

The most important method of containing Iraq is the military alliance against it. The core of this is the US. Britain and the south Gulf states, notably Saudi Arabia, The alliance

now looks much more ragged than could have been expected even six months ago. The Gulf states, and above all Saudi Arabia, have shown an extreme lack of enthusiasm in lining up with the US and Britain. Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia is said to have told Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, that his country is finding its guard dogs (presumably the US and Britain) more expensive to feed than the wolf (Iraq) whom they were supposed to guard it against.

If Arab rulers had any doubts about the sympathies of their subjects, then these were probably put to rest by the riots in M'An in Jordan over the weekend. Suddenly, television screens across the Arab world were showing rioters showering police with stones and wounding four of them with machine gun fire

after a pro-lraqi demonstrator was killed. For President Clinton it has not been a good crisis. He has paid for his neglect of the Middle East since he took office in 1993. He inherited the legacy of President Bush's victory in the Gulf War which established American predominance in the Middle East. In 1993 the Oslo accords seemed to make it possible that the Israeli - Palestinian conflict would be defused by the Palestinians winning the right to establish a national state in Gaza and on the West Bank.

It never happened, President Clinton's pro-Israeli bias helped undermine Oslo. At the same time, two other legs of his Middle East policy were in trouble. These were the "dual containment" of Iraq and Iran. Both countries were to be isolated politically, militarily and economically. Against Iraq failure was partial, but against Iran it was almost total. One result of the outcome of the latest crisis with Iraq may be that the US will cultivate Iran, which is a traditional enemy of Saddam Hussein.

Washington does not seem to perceive that its whole Middle East policy is in trouble. Last week Mrs Albright, who talks tough but has proved ineffective during the present crisis, said there was no connection between the confrontation between the US and Saddam Hussein and the Arab-Israeli conflict. What this means is that there is no connection in terms of State Department policy, but in reality the US failure to broker an agreement between Israel and the Palestinians has contributed significantly to its inability to rally support in the Arab world

In retrospect the US might have been wiser to rely more on the traditional methods of economic embargo rather than weapons inspections to contain Iraq. After all President Saddam had far more chemical and biological weapons and the means to deliver them apply more forcibly today.

President Clinton and Tony Blair can fairly say that they have saved Unscom and allowed it to operate freely for as long as it wants. They will add that Iraq blinked at the last moment in the face of bombing. In reality, the White House was always more nervous that it appeared at committing itself to an air offensive without a clear political or military objective. Otherwise, it would scarcely have mandated Mr Annan to go to Baghdad. The weapons inspections will go ahead, but the real significance of the outcome of the crisis is that Saddam Hussein is well and truly out of the box where Washington kept him after his defeat in Kuwait.

Why country folk want to hang a 'do not disturb' sign on their gates

The country comes to the city next week, to protest in London about not being 'understood'. Andreas Whittam Smith understands only too well

IT IS always important when people take to the streets. Let there be no doubt that the buge raily of rural folk due to take place in London next Sunday is a significant event. In my lifetime, coalmining communities and anti-nuclear arms protesters have staged marches on a scale that has compelled attention. We should take the countryside protest with equal seriousness, even though we are promised that it will be peaceful, picking up its litter as it goes, and that it will dispense with the inflammatory speeches normal on such occasions. Probably the 2,000 beacons which are to be lit across the countryside at dusk on Thursday will be just as eloquent as a tirade by Arthur Scargill or Michael Foot.

Yet the march is puzzling. What could possibly bring country people in such number - over 100,000 are expected to the heart of the capital? They hate London. They despise people who live in towns. For decades the shires have been peaceful. Rural depression once caused Norfolk to elect Labour members of Parliament. But that is all. Indeed for over 50 years now, we have heaped such riches onto the farming community in terms of subsidies, fixed prices, compensation against any untoward development, special tax breaks, that it is very surprising that the countryside should dare to protest. If banners are to be carried on Sunday, I think it would be appropriate if they simply displayed the words "Thank you" to acknowledge how well the 80 per cent of the population that is urban has looked after it country cousins. If we stopped sheltering agriculture from market forces, we would have much cheaper food and lower taxes. That is the sacrifice that the town makes to the country. Many industries and millions of urban workers have faced and do face much greater difficulties. There have been no guarantees for factory work as there have been for farming.

This is why I doubt whether the primary motivation of the marchers on Sunday will be economic, even though rural incomes evidently are under threat. For example, the Government is conspicuously refusing to apply to Brussels for the compensation that British farmers could expect to receive on account of the appreciation of the pound. The Secretary of State for Agriculture, Jack Cunningham, has signalled that the days of unlimited subsidies are drawing to a close. Among agricultural ministers, he is not alone in this. The nations of Europe wish to spend less on farming in order to keep their budget deficits under better control; at the same time international trading rules are beginning to outlaw many forms of agricultural support. The forces bearing down on farm



The hedgerows of old Enigand: under threat from today's country dwellers

incomes are powerful and pervasive and international in character. No amount of marching would make an iota of difference. In its heart, the farming community must know this.

Is the clue to why country folk are marching to be found in their most often repeated complaint, albeit the most vague - we are not understood? Here are some of the comments that rural protesters have been making: "a largely urban Parliament does not really

About one third of the hedges of England and Wales are thought to have been lost between 1984 and 1993. The Council for the Protection of Rural England estimates that more than 2,000 miles have been ripped up in the past nine months - an increase of more than 30 per cent on the same period a year earlier. In light of this, one could say that the countryside is too precious to be left in the charge of country people.

The marchers on Sunday will be protesting at what they perceive as an attempt to reduce the boundaries in which we conduct our private lives

understand rural issues," "We are all in crisis through lack of political understanding and are desperate for recognition." "People in towns don't really seem to want to know or care."

My immediate response to this is to say that urban people understand only too well. Not only do we realise how heavily we subsidise the countryside, we also know that country dwellers are poor protectors of the environment. Some of the people marching in London on Sunday will have been busy destroying hedge rows in the past few months. No sooner did farmers realise that legislation will shortly come into force that will increase the protection of ancient hedgerows, essential shelter and habitat as they are for wild birds, animals, plants, insects and the like, than they engaged in a frenzy of hedge destruction

not be understood sufficiently well. Another remark quoted recently put the point: "There's support for the rally ... because there's a general attack on our liberties. Everywhere our freedom of choice is disappearing." The liberties under threat are by now well known. They comprise the right to go hunting foxes with dogs, which is banned in the awkwardly named private member's measure currently in Parliament - the "Wild Mammals (Hunting with dogs) Bill". In the same list is the right for owners of mountain, moorland, heath, downland and common land - some 12 per cent of the entire land of England and Wales - to forbid walkers to roam freely across their estates. This will be the subject of a Government statement to-morrow. The beef-on-the-bone ban also figures, jective.

But there is something else that may

in order to pre-empt the new regulations. although its effects are felt by all hearty eaters, whether town or country. Likewise the threat - from Brussels - to the production of unpasteurised milk and cheese is lumped in.

The principles underlying the four eximples are different. In the case of hunting the issue is the right of minorities to pursue their ancient customs unless - as with cock-fighting or bear baiting - they are exceptionally repugnant. It is the principle of tolerance. The United Kingdom has stricter laws preventing cruelty to animals than most nations, yet fox hunting has always been allowed to continue. The right to roam, virtuous though it may seem, is an attack on the rights of property owners. Whatever the disgraceful circumstances in which the old landed estates were put together, or whatever the hard-faced arrogance of owners who erect "no trespassing" signs on the gates opening out to vast stretches of wilderness, the right to privacy on one's own property is a powerful and long-established rule. In the same way, Mr Cunningham's ban on beef-on-the-bone is an interference with our liberty to lead our

The marchers on Sunday, therefore, do have something to say, which despite all my irritations at country people appeals deeply to me. They are protesting at what they perceive as an attempt to reduce the boundaries in which we conduct our private activities. That is what will bring tens of thousands of people into the London streets on Sunday and that they are concerned exclusively with rural activities is besides the point. But I doubt whether the countryside will need to hold any further rallies. It looks as if the Government has taken the point. The marchers have already attained their ob-

When it comes to cricket, what's the use of a dead sparrow?



GLENDA COOPER

The MCC votes today on whether to accept women members, but do they want to join? everyone knows about cricket: England aren't very good, it's often rained off and Marylebone Cricket Club does not allow women members.

Today the MCC is voting whether to admit women into its august membership. Early indications seem to suggest that, despite the efforts of its goahead committee, the old farts will have the last say and women will be bowled out once more.

It's not surprising. A call once went out at Lord's. "Is there a doctor in the house?" A member had had been stung on the tongue by a bee. a potentially life-threatening situation. The doctor however saved the man with prompt action. "Is there anything I can do for you,

gasped. "Actually I'd love a tour of the members' pavilion," she replied. The MCC refused. It might have set a precedent.

So even if by some Damascene conversion, the two thirds majority needed to make this momentous change agree to accept women, would women really want to join a place like that? Like Groucho Marx, if asked, I'd reply that I didn't care to belong to any club that had accepted me as a member.

Actually I think women are kept out of the MCC so that we don't realise how boring it is. This is a club, after all, where your average member is a 57year-old man. You have to wait around 20 years to get in (which insures that the average age will

THERE are three things that Doctor?" the grateful member remain on the high side). And one of their most prized exhibits is a stuffed sparrow "bowled out by Jehangir Khan in '36, old boy". (Still, I suppose that's better than most of the England team could achieve now).

And on top of that you go there to watch one of the most bizarre games ever invented. History has it that the game was invented by shepherds (who had presumably found counting sheep too stimulating), although the real success arrived in the 18th century. Since then the game has become riddled with rules and code words and Ian Botham.

I suppose that the true reason that the English took to the game was because whenever the colonies looked like getting

good at it, they could suddensay something like, "You haven't got a silly midoff so we'll have to start the Test again"; 'Yes you may have more runs but we've got more wickets"; 'The referee's decision is final and he went to Eton, so you're

Of course this doesn't happen any more. We may have won one Test Match the other day but England's dismal performance is as perennial as washed out bank holidays and Lord Irvine's obsession with interior decoration.

Except that's not quite the case. Women's cricket is doing well. We held the World Cup until December and are regarded as one of the top four countries. More and more

ly magazine published by Wisden, the cricketer's bible - in the last year alone numbers have almost doubled.

So maybe it's not the case that we should be fighting to get into the dreary old MCC. We should be starting up our own exclusive club instead, preferably right next door. We could have something in better taste than those garish red and yellow colours. We could be part of a club where people actually won things instead of having to whinge about the pitch the whole time. And then enjoy watching the men outside pathetically begging to join. To be kind maybe we'll toss them out a couple of sparrows. Let's hear it for the WCC!

TO SOMEONE YOU DON'T LIKE,

SOMETIMES IT'S EASIER TO TALK



When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone. But who?

That's where The Samaritans come in. We're discreet, sympathetic and completely unshockable.

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The Samaritans

YOU may have read about this elsewhere, but only Pandora brings you the whole truth. When the Telegraph's fashion editor, Hilary Alexander, spotted Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott at Fashion Week, she was so impressed by his double-breasted, pinstriped sartorial elegance, that she very politely asked him the identity of his tailor. Apparently still reeling from his recent splashing at the Brits, Prescott went into a fury. "I'm just here to pick up my wife, for Christ's sake, not for any other fucking reason," he raged. Then stormed off to wait for her in his car.

The TV docudrama about Princess Diana's romance with Dodi Fayed. currently being filmed in Mallorca. has been plagued by a familiar parasite. A swarm of international paparazzi have descended on the production of The People's Princess. stalking the leading actors from

clifftops and speedhoats since the first day of shooting. Recently the \$2m film's director, Gabrielle Beaumont, rushed to defend her players from a gang of aggressive snappers, "Look, I'm not having you here to do to us what you did to Diana," she exclaimed. Witnesses swear there was not a trace of irony in her voice.

The probing zoom lenses are beginning to take their toll on poor Amy Claire Seccombe, the 27-year-old ac-

making her film debut impersonating Princess Diana. Surely she nothing studied at the London Academy of Performing Arts could have adequately prepared her for Arny: prepared?

this live role.



Oh those wags on the Agriculture Select Committee! After hours of hearings on the question of food safety, some MPs could barely contain their giggles when one food bureaucrat announced that his company "produced from conception to consumption". This phrase has inspired committee members to author a new list of "witty" catchphrases, now being passed from hand to hand at Westminster. Examples we are able to print in this newspaper include: "from sperm

"from penis to plate".

What is going on between Tina Brown and Alan Rusbridger, editor of the Guardian? Recently spotted lunching together at Le Caprice, another meeting was scheduled for this week during Rusbridger's visit to New York. In the past months, the Guardian has run several glowing tributes to the New Yorker editor obsequiously headlined the Queen of New York", followed by Sunday's Observer hagiography in which Tina has become "Queen of Magazinés". Tina, whose magazine lost more than \$10m last year, cannot be thrilled by the New Yorker's imminent loss of its corporate independence and the move out of its historic offices. The "Queen" will now be reporting to tough-guy Condé Nast president Steve Florio. Could she be considering a new throne as the aspiring "queen of British sunday newspapers" at the Observer?

to spoon", "from orgasm to orifice" and Do we really want to swap one of our great national assets, Lynne Franks, who is moving to Los Angeles, for Tina Brown? The absolutely fabulous PR star of the Eighties has progressed to offer-

ing *creative strategy" on behalf of a number of clients, including 'The Big Issue' (launching in Santa Monica April) and Unesco (something called "global fashion"). She told Pandora:

"They like the idea over there of a loud, Jewish-English woman with lots of ideas and enthusiasm. It's a much more loving, open

Pandora









Renée **Epelbaum**

RENEE Epelbaum was one of co-operation with Uruguav's the most courageous and most military regime, and they too tragic figures of Argentina's "Dirty War" of repression, waged by successive military juntas against their own people between 1976 and 1983.

She was a founding member of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, campaigning on behalf of those whose children were killed during Argentine military rule. They took their name from the famous square where they have demonstrated in front of the Presidential Palace every week since 1977.

It has been a remarkably durable human rights organisation when even to join the mothers in their demonstrations could add your name to the list of "desaparecedos", "the disappeared" - people systematically kidnapped, tortured and disposed of without trace by Argentina's military death squads. No demonstration in Argentina's violent past has lasted as long as the mothers have, crying out for punishment of the perpetrators, and information about their missing relatives.

Renée Epelbaum became the most active and best known of the founding members. She was a highly intelligent businesswoman who spoke good English. She became an eloquent spokesperson of their campaign. taking it beyond the Plaza de Mayo and Argentina's borders - to the United Nations and other international forums, as the evidence the military tried to suppress remorselessly emerged.

What was different about her tragedy was that not all her three children disappeared within Argentina. Her son Luis, a quiet, conscientious medical student of 25, was detained as Aires in 1976. Her other son, Claudio, aged 23, a law student, to their holiday home in neighbouring Uruguay, in the seaside resort of Punta del Este, where of their citizens in Argentina. she thought they would be safe. But Argentine military kidnap every Thursday to shuffle squads pursued them there, in around the square, past the February 1998.

disappeared in 1976.

Renee, herself, was an only child of a Jewish family, already widowed when her husband Raul, died a natural death, aged 46. When I saw her in her darkened flat in an affluent district of Buenos Aires, she would talk fondly of her missing children, lamenting the fact that she would never have any grandchildren. She said: "My future died the day my daughter and two sons disappeared."

She would point to the pictures - young, sensitive faces and ask why their young lives should have been so cruelly snatched away. "I have never cried for my children," she said. "I'm afraid that if I start, I may never be able to stop. My pain is as great today as the day they disappeared. A mother can never forget her children. We must keep their memory alive."

In 1979, she met a fellow captive from her children's concentration camp, one of the very few to be released, who told her that he had heard them being interrogated and that they should be released because they had done nothing wrong. (Her children - like most of the estimated 30,000 who disappeared - were innocent of any crime.) He told her that Claudio, a musician and poet, used to make music with the chains that bound him.

Renée Epelbaum lived long enough to see the organisation she pioneered complete 21 years of peaceful protest. The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo have come of age. Their children never will. Many were jailed. "Unless we learn the dumped in mass graves marked with the initials "N.N." - "No he left his university in Buenos Name". Other bodies were er end. Argentina will be forever thrown from helicopters into the Atlantic Ocean. France, Italy and Lila, 20, a dancer, were sent and Sweden have tried in vain to extradite military officers for the disappearance of hundreds

The mothers still gather



Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo in their distinctive white headscarves embroidered with the names of their missing children; below, Epelbaum with photographs of her own three, who disappeared in 1976

Presidential Palace, with their white headscarves bearing the names of their children and the date they disappeared.

Last year Renée Epelbaum's courage and persistence were recognised by the award to the mothers of the International Prize for Activists, presented by the Nobel Peace Prize winner Peres Esquivel. Right up to her death, she stayed in the forefront of the campaign, demanding a repeal of Argentina's amnesty laws which halted any further prosecution of the military murder squads and released the few who had been truth about the desaparecedos," she said, "our sadness will nevhaunted by their ghosts."

Harold Briley Mrs Renée Epelbaum, campaigner:

born Entre Rios Province, Argentina 1920; married Raul Epelbaum (deceased; two sons and one daughter deceased); died Buenos Aires 7



Randolph Symonette

Bahamian-born bass-baritone, was in his middle thirties before he turned to singing as a profession, but for over 20 years he pursued a successful career, mainly in Europe but also in the United States. Progressing from Broadway to the Metropolitan reputation as a strong singer and a powerful actor.

His repertory also propressed from Kurt Weill and Menotti to Verdi, Puccini, Richard Strauss and Wagner, culminating in the roles of Wotan, the Wanderer and Gunther in Der Ring des Nibelungen. Symonette was born at

Mathews Town in the Bahamas. own ship. In the mid-Forties he studied singing in New York with Paul Althouse, a former tenor who became one of America's finest singing teachers, In March 1945 Symonette appeared on Broadway at the Alvin Theatre, singing a small part in Kurt Weill's The Firebrand of Florence. Although The Firebrand (Benvenuto Cellini) only ran for 43 performances, it had momentous consequences for the singer; during the rehearsal period he met his future wife, Lys, who was the rehearsal pianist for that show, and for several other Weill productions.

In order to raise money for and Randolph Symonette sang excerpts from the score, taking the tenor, soprano and bass roles respectively, to rich prospective backers. Randolph Symonette also appeared in Menotti's hugely successful opera The Consul, which opened at the Ethel Barrymore Theater in 1950. In 1952 he sang at the New York City Center (later NY City Opera) in Mozart's Don Giovanni. Then. like many other aspiring opera singers at that time, he sailed for

Europe. Symonette was first engaged at Mainz, then in 1954 he became a member of the Düsseldorf Opera. Ironically, one of his earliest roles there was Frank Maurrant, in the German premiere of Weill's Street Scene in 1955. A year later he sang d'Hoffman, of which he record-Golaud in Pelleas et Melisande, ed lengthy excerpts. In 1969 he by all accounts a perfect role for him at that stage in his career. In April 1956 the new Düssel- Professor of Voice at Florida don Opera House was opened with Fidelio, in which Symonette sang Don Pizzaro, his heaviest role to date. In September 1956 the Deutsche Oper am Rhein, which included both the Düsseldorf and Duisberg houses,

RANDOLPH Symonette, the was inaugurated with Richard Strauss's Elektra: Orestes furnished the bass-baritone with another new role.

During the next few years he added the Grand Inquisitor in Verdi's Don Carlos, Jochanaan in Salome, the title role of Der fliegende Hollander and St Just Opera House, he acquired a in Einem's Dantons Tod to his repertory. Meanwhile, as an "Italian" interlude for the Netherlands Opera in Amsterdam he sang Scarpia in Tosca. Michele in Il tabarro and Amonasto in Aida (1958/59). Back in Düsseldorf, where the company was building up a Ring cycle (not in correct order). he sang Gunther in Götterdammerung and then Wotan in His first choice of career was at Das Rheingold (1960). The latsea, and he rose to command his ter performance elicited a review that praised "his powerful stage presence [which] is matched by a powerful, completely even-scaled voice of great warmth." From then onward, Symon-

ette's appearances were mostly in Wagner. In 1961 he returned to the United States to sing Wotan (Das Rheingold) and the Inquisitor in the Cincinnati Summer Season at the Zoo. On 17 November that year he made his Metropolitan Opera début as Teiramund in Lohengrin: at the Met he also sang Wotan in Die Walküre at very short notice when a colleague became ill, and early in 1962, the Wanderer in Siegfried. Street Scene, in 1946 Weill, Lys Among other Ring appearances were the Walkure Wotan in Avignon; both Wotans at the Théâtre de la Monnaie, Brussels: the Walkure Wotan in Bordeaux and the Wanderer in Siegfried at the Teatro de la Fenice, Venice. During his years in Europe.

Symonette sang at many of the West German theatres, including Hamburg, Munich Stuttgart and Frankfurt. He made guest appearances in Vienna, Zurich, Barcelona. Naples, Rome and at the Paris Opéra. His last new roles in Düsseldorf were the Water Sprite in Dvorák's Rusalka (1964) and Alfio in Cavalleria rusticana (1966). His wide repertory also included Hans Sachs, Klingsor (Parsifal) and the four Villains in Les Contes sang Ramfis in Aida at Tallahassee, Florida, where he was ite University until 1982.

Elizabeth Forbes

Randolph Symonette, singer: born Mathews Town, Bahamas 23 November 1910; married (one son); diea-New York I January 1998.

John Harris



IN 1946, following the end of the Second World War. John Harris entered the civil engineering profession in local government. He was one of a band of young engineers who became excited by the opportunities offered by a new technology Design and Construction in Precalled pre-stressed concrete, stressed Concrete (1963), de-

tle understood in the Englishspeaking world. It had the great and steel much more efficiently than previously, and therefore was of immense importance during the lean years of material shortages during reconstructions after the war.

In 1952 he co-authored the first book in English to describe the principles of pre-stressing in simple terms (Prestressed Concrete, with P.B. Morice), dispelling many of its mysteries; it ran to 100,000 copies and had a seminal influence on developments in construction, even being translated into Russian. He later joined I.C. Smith in writing a second book, Basic

which had been invented in scribing how this technology this century. He was instru-France and which was very lit- could be applied in practical situations, for Harris was essentially an engineer, with sound advantage of using concrete judgement and a concern for realistic and practical solutions to

In 1951 he was invited to initiate pre-stressing processes in Australia and spent the next six years working there before returning to Britain to join his brother Alan (later Sir Alan) Harris and James Sutherland in setting up the consulting practice of Harris and Sutherland in al view of engineering and was London.

His skills were very much entrepreneurial and, in addition to designing many bridges and. industrial plants in the UK, he made an important contribution overseas to the success of British consultants in world markets during the latter half of

mental in the establishment of the firm's offices in Australia. Hong Kong and Iran. Amongst the many projects for which he was responsible were the redevelopment of King's College in the Strand, the Alford Point Bridge in Australia and civil engineering works for Pilkington's float glass factory at St Helens, for the Cameron Ironworks and for Texas Instruments.

Harris took an internationmuch involved in the development of co-operation between European professionals; he devoted a good deal of his time to promoting his profession in Europe as a delegate to CIDIC (the European Federation of Consulting Engineers) which laid the ground for the establishment of the European Federation of Consulting Associations. A committed francophile with a good command of the language, he was a member and at one time president of the "French Civils" taking part in their many "voyages d'étude" to study special engineering works in France.

Born in London in 1922, Harris attended Owen's School in Islington before reading Engineering at King's College London during the war, when it was evacuated to Bristol. He was awarded the Jelf medal for his special contribution to academic and social life.

In 1943 he joined the Royal Navy as an engineer and was soon serving on Arctic convoys. He was later transferred

Pacific. There he became the first British naval officer to go ashore on Japan's surrender. Lightly armed, and taking with him a single seaman stoker, he organised the release of British PoWs, commandeering trains to reach the camps and transport the PoWs back to the coast. For this exploit he received a Commendation from the Commander in Chief Pacific Fleet.

John Harris was a warm, caring and considerate man with a ready wit and an inexhaustible fund of stories, often told against himself.

John Desmond Harris, civil engineer. born London 6 September 1922; married 1944 Pauline de Guerin (two sons, one daughter, and one daughto the battleship HMS King ter deceased); died Sevenooks, George V and saw service in the Kent 14 January 1998.

Abraham A. Ribicoff, politician, died Riverdale, New York 22 February, aged 87. A Democrat who served as a state legislator in Connecticut, a judge, a congressman and from John Fulton, builfighter and 1954 to 1961 Governor of Connecticut. He resigned to become Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare in Kennedy's cabinet, but gave it up the following year to stand for the US

Senate, where he remained for 18 years. Louis W. Mahle, chewing gum

Pennsylvania 13 February, aged 100. Invented the tiny, squareshaped gum Chiclets, which he after one of its ingredients, the chicle tree.

painter, died Seville 20 February, aged 65. The first American matador to fight in Spain since the 1930s. After arriving in Seville in 1955 he spent many years struggling to break into the closed world of the "cose rida"; he retired in 1994, His paintings are in the blood of the manufacturer, died Ambler, bulls he killed.

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

DEATHS

SIDWELL: Martindale, died 20 Feb-rupry 1998. Funeral at Hampstead Parish Church on Friday 27 February at 12 noon. No flowers, if wished do-mations to British Heart Foundation or Wells Cathedral School c/o 1 Frognal Gardens, London NW3 6UY.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services, Wedding anniversaries, in Memoriam) should be sent in writing or the Gazette Edicor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Carary Wharf, London El4 SDL, telephoned to 0771-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0771-293 2011) or fixed to 0771-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazetta announce-ments (notices, functions, Forthcomments (notices, rancoons, refructoring marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or fased) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Queen holds as Investigate at Buckingham
Palace, and, accompanied by The Dolan of EdIndustry, attends a correnous at the Commonwealth Institute; Lendon WR, to mark the Bright
Red Cross Royal Charter. The Dules of Edinburgh, Patron, amends a reception for The Cantbridge Society at St James's Palace. The Principa
Boyal presents the National Housing Federation's
Six Roy of fifthis Award 1998 at Church House.
London SWI

Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavalry Mousted Regiment
mitums the Ouecu's Life Guard at Morse Guards,
11am, F Company Senje Guards mounts the
Ouecu's Guard at Buddenplann Palace, 11.30am,
band provided by the Irish Guards.

The Right Rev Jonathan Bailey,

Birthdays

Bishop of Derby, 58; Miss Inge Bernstein, circuit judge, 67; Sir William Blackburne, High Court judge, 54; Mr John Booth, former chairman, Hepworth Ceramics, 84; Professor Eric Boyland, biochemist, 93; Mr Brien Close former Feeland. 93; Mr Brian Close, former England cricket captain, 67; Dr Lionel Dakers, former Director, Royal School of Church Music, 74; Mr Reginald Freeson, former government minis-ter, 72; Mr John Grogan MP, 37; Mr Richard Hamilton, pop-art painter, 76; Maj-Gen David Houston, Lordieutenant of Sutherland, 69, Mr Paul Jones, actor and singer, 56: Mr David Langdon, cartoonist and il-lustrator, 84; Mr Denis Law, footballer, 58; M Michel Legrand, composer and conductor, 66; Mr John Lever, former England crick-eter, 49; Lord Melchett, conserva-tionist, 50; Mr Peter Owen, publisher, 71: Admiral Sir William Pillar, former Lieutenant Governor of Jersey, 74; Mr Alain Prost, motor-racing champion, 43; Mr Derek Randall, cricketer, 47; The Rev Kathleen Richardson, former President, Methodist Conference, 60; Sir Frank Rogers, former deputy chairman, the Telegraph plc, 78; Mr Dennis Waterman, actor, 50.

Anniversaries

Births: Samuel Wesley, organist and composer, 1766; Wilhelm Karl Grimm, philologist and folklorist, 1786: Winslow Homer, painter and illustrator, 1836; George Augustus Moore, novelist, 1852; Eugene Arnold Dolmetsch, early music en-thusiast, 1858; Sir Cyril Arthur Pearson, newspaper proprietor, 1866; Chester William Nimitz, admiral,

pentier, composer, 1704; Henry Cavendish, physicist, 1810; Robert Fulton, steamboar pioneer, 1815; Thomas Coutts, banker, 1822; Thomas Bowdler, editor and censor, 1825; Sir Edward Marshall Hall, lawyer, 1927; Ahmed Pasha, Egyptian prime minister, assassinated 1945; Grant Franklin Thomas Richards, publisher, 1948; Bobby Moore, footballer, 1993; Dinah Shore (Frances Rose Shore), singer. 1994. On this day: Pope Gregory XIII issued a Bull announcing the Gregorian Calendar, 1582; Cadiz was made a free port, 1829; the Battle of the Alamo began, 1836; Avon-mouth Dock, Bristol, was opened, 1877; the Simplon Tunnel, Switzerland/Italy, was completed, 1905; the Flying Scotsman" went into service. 1923; the Arnold Dolmetsch Fourdation was set up, 1928; a world land-speed record of 253.96mph was set up by Sir Malcolm Campbell, 1932; the first commercial nylon produc - toothbrush bristles - was pro-duced in the US, 1938; Juan Domin-go Perón was elected president of Argentina, 1946. Today is the Feast Day of Saints Montanus, Lucius, and their Companions and St Praetextatus or Prix.

Lectures

Victoria and Albert Museum: Amelia Fearn, "Immigrant Goldsmiths Working in Britain", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery (Roland Penrose Artists' Talks): Garry Hume talks about his own work, 6.30pm. National Portrait Gallery: John Cooper, "The Kit-Cat Club", 1.10pm. Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford (Oxford Amnesty Lectures): Professo Sol Benatar, "A Perspective from Africa on Human Rights and Genetic Engineering", opm.

LAW REPORT: 24 FEBRUARY 1998

Count charging evasion was not duplicitous

Regina v Martin and another: Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord Justice Rose, Vice President, Mr Justice Holland and Mrs Justice Smith) 20 February

A defendant could be indicted in one count of being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of duty on goods, contrary to section 170(2) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979, where the allegation related to a series of separately identifiable incidents over a period of months, without the count being bad for duplicity.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeals of Ellis Anthony Martin and James White against their convictions at Southwark Crown Court of two offences of being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of duty chargeable on alcoholic drinks contrary to section 170(2) of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979.

The appellants had origi- of Criminal Appeals) for White; Olivnally been indicted in count 1. er Sells QC (Solicitor, Customs and charging a single offence of fraudulent evasion between November 1993 and June 1994, and the prosecution had opened its case on the basis that there had been two methods of evasion, referred to as method A and method B. After Martin's defence case had been

completed, a submission was made on behalf of White that count I was duplicitous. The judge ruled that it was not, but ordered that it should

be split into IA, relating to method A, and 1B, relating to method B. The appellants appealed against conviction on the ground that counts IA and 1B were bad for duplicity, and Martin also appealed on the ground that there had been an irregularity in the use made of a disclosure affidavit he had sworn in restraint proceedings. Edmund Lawson QC and Andrew erly to permit charging the Lloyd-Eley (Registrar of Criminal Appeals) for Marin; David Cocks QC and David H.A. Williams (Registrar

Excise) for the Crown.

Lord Justice Rose (VP) said that it had been submitted for the appellants that when indicting for an admittedly continuous offence, good practice demanded the drafting of counts to reflect so far as possible "acts" rather than "activity".

However, the offence created by section 170(2) of the 1979 Act was an "activity" offence, to be defined by the nature of the evasion and of the "knowing concern". In some cases the evasion and the knowing concern would arise in relation to only one transaction; in others there would be many transactions giving rise to continuous activity. In both types of case, the language of the section was such as propoffence in one count. Accordingly, neither count was bad for

fence created by section 170(2), taken in conjunction with the facts alleged by the Crown, had properly justified one count to reflect method A and one to reflect method B.

Count 1 as originally drawn had, however, been duplicitous because s 170(2) did not permit one count to cover two different activities. The wide scope given by the section did not obviate the need to draft indictments so as to avoid duplicity and to achieve, so far as the facts allowed, counts that were substantive and specific. More than one count might be necessary to identify differing be hoped and expected that in aspects of the prosecution case and to avoid overlap.

der pursuant to which the affidavit been made, namely that order. duplicity. The nature of the of- no disclosure made in com-

pliance with this order shall be used as evidence in the prosecution of an offence alleged to have been committed by the person required to make that disclosure", and had thus amounted to a serious

итеgularity. Although not prepared to contemplate the prosecution being kept in ignorance of any such affidavit until a confiscation order was sought, the court could not envisage circumstances in which it could become admissible in evidence during a criminal trial at the behest of the Crown. It was to future cases the Crown and the court would be alert to the It had been submitted for limitations subject to which Martin that reference during such an order for disclosure his cross-examination to an was made. The Crown was affidavit he had sworn in ear- not, however, prevented from lier restraint proceedings in the cross-examining the accused as High Court had constituted a to credit, in reliance uponbreach of the terms of the or- the content of an affidavit

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

and Shi : stock

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19/BUSINESS

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: INDYBUSINESS@INDEPENDENT.CO.UK FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Airbus to fight Boeing for £2bn **BA** fleet order

By Michael Harrison

British Airways has asked Boeing and Airbus Industrie to come up with radically different ways of financing a £2bn order for a fleet of up to 100 new aircraft for its regional European services.

The order, the biggest placed by BA for seven years, will be a contest between Boeing's "next generation 737 and the Airbus A320 family of jets.

Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, said he expected the two manufacturers to devise innovative ways of financing the new fleet to cut the costs of ownership for BA.

One option is for the manufacturers to finance the aircraft against their own balance sheets, allowing BA simply to rent the aircraft, paying a charge for every hour they are in the air. This would leave the manufacturer to take responsibility for everything from maintenance to residual values.

"We are open to ideas," said Mr Ayling, "Airlines are very asset hungry businesses and anything we can do to lay off some of the exposure is good for our shareholders. All we want as an airline is the use of aircraft. Provided the supplier is secure, we are indifferent to ownership."

The BA fleet is dominated by Boeing aircraft and has never bought a single Airbus jet. The only Airbus aircraft it has in op-

eration are 10 A320s inherited through the takeover of British Caledonian. Boeing accounts for about 80 per cent of BA's fleet of 300 aircraft. About half the fleet is owned by BA and half financed through operating leases.

Furthermore, the last time the two manufacturers were vying for a big BA order for widebodied jets in 1991. Airbus controversially lost out. BA selected the GE-powered Boeing 777 for the £1bn order in preference to the Rolls-Royce powered Airbus A330.

However, Mr Ayling rebuffed suggestions that Airbus had simply been invited to take part this time in order to force down Boeing's final price, "I hope that Airbus sees it as an opportunity to sell some aircraft to an operator that has not bought from it before," he added.

BA has asked for initial tenders by 16 March and is expected to make a final selection this summer. It has ruled out splitting the order between the two manufacturers as this would reduce the costs savings available by, for instance, only needing to train pilots for one type of flightdeck.

The new aircraft will start en-

tering service in 1999 and will replace ageing Boeing 737s, Fokker 28s and Fokker 100s, MD83s and British Aerospace Advanced Turbo Prop aircraft which are being phased out because of more stringent noise regulations.

Initially, BA requires 30 new jets worth £400m-£600m to enter service on regional routes from Birmingham and Manchester. But further orders for another 70 aircraft to update fleets at its subsidiary airlines Deutsche BA, Air Liberté and EuroGatwick could follow.

News of the invitation to tender helped lift British Acrospace, which has a 20 per cent stake in the four nation Airbus consortium. Its shares rose 29p to 1909p. BAe also announced that the 29.5 per cent limit on foreign shareholdings had been passed for the first time. The Government is preparing to lift the limit to 49.5 per cent for both BAe and Rolls-Royce. BAe has also announced plans for a three for one share split.

Boeing said it would "aggressively promote" its next meration 737 for the order adding that it offered significant commonality with the 737s already in BA's fleet. Since the launch of the programme in 1995, Boeing has received 811 orders from 38 airlines.

However, Airbus executives believe it is in with a good chance of scooping the order. When it lost out to Boeing in 1991, Lord King was still chairman of BA and the aircraft purchase was linked to a deal to sell its engine maintenance business in Cardiff to GE.



William Purves (middle), chairman of HSBC Holdings plc, answering questions at a news conference yesterday. HSBC, which posted a 3 per cent rise in profit to Outlook, page 21 | HK\$9.18bn in 1997, did not escape recent Asian financial turmoil . Photograph: Reuter

HSBC profits hit as bank warns of fresh Asian fall-out

By Stephen Vines in Hong Kong and Lea Paterson in London

HSBC Holdings, owner of Midland Bank, yesterday took steps to prepare for the fall-out from the Asian crisis by increasing bad debt provisions by 60 per cent to £615m. The banking group warned there could be worse to come in the troubled region.

Sir William Purves, group chairman, said Asia had seen "a deterioration in credit quality, the full impact of which is only to beginning to emerge". But, speaking to reporters in Hong Kong, Sir William insisted the bank's "long term view" of Asia was positive. "Our business in Asia is paramount", he added.

The Asian turmoil hit profits at the group's investment banking division, where profits dropped by 42 per cent to £132m, largely because of losses on debt securities and equities. But John Bond, group chief executive, was vesterday keen to stress HSBC's commitment to its investment banking activities.

Overall, the group saw profits rise to £4.97bn from £4.52bn in 1996.

The crisis also took its toll on the Hongkong Bank, the group's largest subsidiary, which delivered a profit rise of just 3 per

cent, much lower than expected. The strength of sterling also knocked down profits for the second year on the row. But HSBC yesterday took steps to avoid future sterling hits. From next year, the bank will report in US dollars. Sir William said: "The US dollar and currencies linked to it form the main curreacy bloc in which the Group's usiness is transacted".

Unlike a number of his UK counterparts, Mr Bond yesterday signalled the bank was unlikely to participate in consolidation of the European banking sector, at least in the short term.

Speaking at a press conference in London, Mr Bond said: "We have nothing on our agenda for acquisitions at present". But he added: "If the right opportunity came along at the right price we would a look at it". Meanwhile in Hong Kong. Sir William told reporters that, with bank assets at record low prices in some parts of Asia, HSBC was keeping its "eyes

open to opportunities" HSBC's bad debt provisions - which included a £175m special provision reflecting the "unusual level of uncertainty" in Asia - were welcomed by the City yesterday. "They have taken quite a large provision for bad debt, which has been taken very well," one dealer said. "The general pervasion was precaution", said John Leonard. banking analyst at Salomon Smith Barney.

Mr Bond said he hoped the special provision, the bulk of which will be absorbed by the Hongkong Bank group, would be sufficient to cover for the fallout from Asia. Midland Bank had a strong year, with pre-tax profits up 28 per cent to £1.6bn. First Direct, the telephone banking division, also made money, although Mr Bond refused to provide details of profits.

LCR to get 90-day extension for Channel Tunnel link rescue plan

Transport Correspondent

The decision to build the highspeed Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL) is likely to be delayed by up to 90 days, accord-

ing to senior Whitehall sources. Ministers are expected to announce the delay soon after the deadline for the original London & Continental Railways (LCR) consortium to rehid for the project expires this

By Terry Macalister

Roland Shaw, one of the great

swashbucklers of the early North

Sea oil boom, is set to make a

comeback to the stock market

with a flotation of Burren Eu-

ergy that could value the com-

Having kept a low-profile

since being deposed from the

A private placement is cur-

rently being organised by ING

Barings and Finian O'Sullivan,

Burren's chief executive, con-

firmed that it would be fol-

lowed by a stock market launch.

an Initial Public Offering for

Burren before the end of this

year. We have been doing de-

tailed work with Barings on the

Outsiders said Burren could

value of the company."

He said: "We are working at

pany at more than £80m.

less than a year.

::="

other bidders - such as Railtrack ~ to come forward with new proposals, although it is understood that they may have to reform under the LCR name to avoid the Government having to re-tender the entire project. Going through the entire bidding process again would ef-

fectively scupper the rail link. The future of the rail link was thrown into disarray earlier this month when LCR said it could not complete the pro-

Roland Shaw plans comeback

subsidies. The original LCR plans would have cut about 25 minutes off the 65-minute journey time into London for commuters from outer Kent.

Alastair Morton, the Government's advisor on the CTRL, is understood to be considering more than 30 different scenarios under which the high-speed line linking the Channel Tunnel and

central London could be built. One option would see the 12 mile tunnel from east London service using the North London line run from Stratford. This would require some overland work to be done to allow trains to run to St Paneras, the central London station, but the cut-

would save nearly £1bn. Another - put forward by the contractors Bechtel and Ove Arup, currently members of the LCR consortium - would see the link built in two phases with the line to Waterloo complet-

ting out the tunnelling costs

Pancras finished later.

The whole project could then be sold off to Railtrack. The owner of the link would then recoup its costs by charging large access fees to Eurostar.

Civil servants at the Treasury also believe that many individual bits of the project could be parcelled off to the private sector. They point out that the building giant Blue Circle is poised to build a £2bn office and residential complex at

Ireland ITV franchise, to Ca-

nadian media group CanWest

after failing to convince Ulster's

board to accept a takeover bid.

that it had approached Ulster

earlier this year with a view to

making a 240p a share bid for

the rest of the company. How-

ever, Ulster's board rejected the

offer, which SMG described as

full." SMG subsequently de-

cided to sell its shares to Can-

SMG yesterday revealed

proposed Eurostar terminal at its beart. This new station and some of the railway line required, say Treasury mandarins, could be sold off to Blue Circle - thus reducing the cost.

The flagship £580m Thameslink 2000 rail project, linking towns in the Home Counties north of London to the Sussex coast, is likely to suffer from CTRL's collapse.

Thameslink 2000, which will improve services for cross-Lon-

land, where it has a 45 per cent

stake. The company is keen to

foster co-operation between

president of CanWest said: "We

have acquired our position as a

strategic investment and believe

that it will foster a productive and

collaborative relationship with

TV3 in the Republic of Ireland."

deal is attractive because it

keeps Ulster out of the hands

of the big three ITV players:

Granada, Carlton and United

News & Media.

For SMG, meanwhile, the

David Asper, executive vice

the two companies.

the £5.4bn CTRL project to build a £150m station underneath King's Cross.

As a compromise the proposed station - which was to offer an interchange between the Underground, Eurostar and mainline services - is likely to be scaled down.

Sources close to the project said that the station could be built much more cheaply if it did not need to include facilities for Eurostar.

per cent, it said it had no plans

The buying pushed up UI-

ster's share price from 130p ear-

lier in the year to a high of 265p

in November. Yesterday, they

SMG said it had made an ex-

ceptional profit of £3.5m on the

sale. The company paid an av-

erage of 209p per share for the

stake. SMG plans to use the

£23.9m proceeds to reduce cur-

rent borrowings and to fund on-

going investment. Its shares

was now likely to concentrate on

its businesses in Scotland, where

it still has some headroom for

expansion in other media such

as radio. However, they also said

that Ulster would ultimately end

Analysts said the company

were unchanged at 671p.

put on 0.5p to close at 243p.

to make an offer for Ulster.

Barclays cools rumours of **Standard** Chartered bid

By Lea Paterson

Barclays yesterday moved to quash rumours it was poised to bid for Standard Chartered, a rival bank, although it hinted at the possibility of future acquisitions.

In a carefully worded statement, Barclays said: "Barclays wishes to clarify that, while it continues to monitor developments among competitors throughout the financial services sector, it is not in discussions

with Standard Chartered". In a separate statement, Standard Chartered said it was "not in discussions with any party con-

cerning a merger or a takeover." The two statements followed weekend press reports that Martin Taylor. Barclays' chief executive, made merger overtures to Malcolm Williamson, Standard

Chartered's chief executive, over dinner at Chez Nico's, an exclusive London restaurant. Barciays played down sug-

gestions that Mr Taylor had, vithout encouragement from Standard Chartered, made an overt approach. One said: "The conversation was not as one-

sided as has been reported." Sources close to Standard Chartered disagreed. One said: We're a bit confused about all this. He [Mr Taylor] invited Malcolm to dinner. He suggested

the restaurant. He paid the bill. He made the suggestion." Separately, Barclays announced Sir Andrew Large,

former chair of the Securities and Investment Board, is to replace Sir Peter Middleton as deputy chairman of the bank. Outlook, page 21

Scottish Media sells stake in Ulster TV after bid rejection By Peter Thal Larsen However, CanWest said it SMG, which owns Scottish TV and the Glasgow Herald, had no interest in owning Ul-Scottish Media Group yesterday ster. The company sees an overbuilt up its shareholding in UIsold its 18.2 per cent stake in Ullap with its investment in the ster last year. In August, when ster Television, the Northern newly-launched TV3 in Ire-SMG increased its holding to 13.1

with stock market oil float be worth more than £80m on the who was a former diplomat and then bomber pilot. Mr Shaw bebasis of very encouraging flow rates from wells that are already

> gion of Turkmenistan. If the IPO takes off, it will offer a triumphant return for Mr Shaw with the Caspian area representing all the frontier characteristics of the UK North Sea in the early 1970s.

producing in the Nebit Dag re-

Mr Shaw, who still has a small chairmanship of Premier Oil in personal holding in Premier, 1995, Mr Shaw now wants to left the UK explorer after holdraise cash for a series of projects ing the chairmanship there for in the Caspian Sea region. He 24 years. He was removed from has been chairman of Burren for his post against his will. Over that period Mr Shaw.

now aged 76, raised the asset value of Premier from £175,000 to £130m through a combination of exploration success and But it was not all good times.

Analysts, never favourites with Mr Shaw, remember Premier's share price hitting 90p but also dipping to 17p. Yesterday it was stable at 44.5p.

A larger-than-life-American

came resident in Britain 50 years ago but still carries a heavy east coast drawl.

When he bid farewell to Premier, he said he had no intention of retiring. He instantly found directorships with Australia's Eastern Petroleum and the trading company, Maxoil.

He was talked into joining Burren by Mr O'Sullivan, a geophysicist. Burren's kev asset is a 25 per cent interest in five Turkmenistan oil and eas fields which make up the Nebit Dag interest. Burren is working there alongside operator Mobil (40 per cent) and Monument Oil and Gas (35 per cent).

Last week Monument told analysts that latest reports from the area were extremely encouraging and said there was the potential to double the value of Monument's holdings.

Monument rushed out new fig-ures on reserves to head off their publication in the financing doc-

INTEREST RATES



Photograph: FT

uments of Burren. As well as Nebit

a shipping arm, VCTT, which is already has a contract to charter local tankers and is carrying oil from the Caspian area via rivers and canals.

Roland Shaw: Back in the limelight

Dag, Burren has interests in two oil and gas condensate fields in

Saratov Province of Russia.

Burren has also established



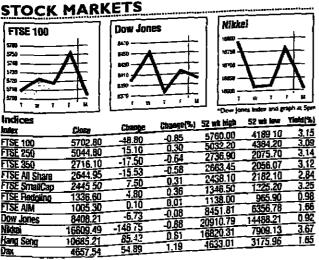
This transaction is a good deal for our shareholders," said Andrew Flanagan, chief executive of SMG. "It should also ensure that Ulster remains independent of other existing ITV franchise holders at a critical time."

up in the hands of one of the larger ITV companies.



207.92 0.6280 Netherlands (guilders) 3.2602 Norway (kroner) 12.17 Portugal (escudos) Spain (pesetas) 244.63 South Africa (rand) 7.7718 Sweden (kroner) 12.93 Switzerland (francs) 2.3521 2.28 Turkey (lira) 356,870 USA (\$) 1.1603 1.5969 Source: Thomas Cook Rates for indication purposes only

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THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

Asia crisis weighs down HSBC

HSBC was the darling of the banking sector until the bubble burst in South-east Asia. The recent economic upheaval in the region has taken its toll on its shares, which have shed more than a third of their value since the real extent of the crisis came to light. In the year to December, the banking group made pre-tax profits of £4.97bn, up 10 per cent and more or less in line with recent forecasts. But the figures were way

before the Asian crisis broke. Yesterday, shares closed at 1175p, up following some signs of a revival in con-Asian crisis has affected the bank's profits, crisis itself is past its worst.

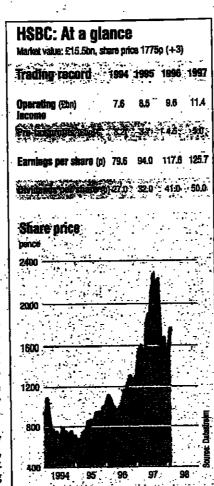
HSBC's exposure to South Korea, Indonesia and Thailand, the three countries the IMF has been forced to bail out so far, is relatively low. But the bank has a large exposure to the Hong Kong market,

which accounts for around a third of group assets. And although the Hong Kong economy has taken less of a battering than some in the region, with interest rates still running high there could be some nasty surprises around the corner.

That aside, the picture is pretty healthy. Midland Bank is doing well, with profits up 28 per cent and the cost income ratio, at 57.5 per cent, far lower than many of its high street rivals. Things also seem on the up in Latin America, where HSBC has made a variety of acquisitions over the last year.

There is no denying HSBC has some below City predictions at this time last year, great banking businesses. Moreover, if the pound's strength continues, the bank's decision to begin accounting in US dol-3p on the day, and off their recent lows lars will give profits a helping hand. On the downside though, the group has sigfidence in Asia. The key question for nalled it is unlikely to make a major would-be investors, now is not whether the acquisition in the short-term, and the shares are bound to be sensitive to any which it undoubtedly has, but whether the further downturn in Asia over the coming months.

Forecasts from Salomon Smith Barney put HSBC on a forward p/e of around 13, a substantial discount to the sector. But given the uncertainty in Asia, the rating looks about right.



defence niche

On the face of it, Ultra should be having a hard time. To begin with, it's an engineer, with substantial dollar-denominated exof just £247m, it's a tiddler in the defence inclustry - a market where even a giant such as British Aerospace is deemed not to be Ultra is in no hurry to acquire. large enough to survive on its own.

These factors have not stopped Ultra's share price from rising by over 50 per cent 18 months ago. Judging by yesterday's fullyear results, the rise is fully justified.

Ultra concentrates on niche products that the larger defence industry players cannot be bothered with. Its traditional strength is in sonobuoys, which are usually dropped into the sea from aircraft to help detect vessels like submarines. But it also supplies the landing gear computers for the Airbus and makes sophisticated equipment which cools the tips of heat-seeking missiles. Ultra spends roughly a quarter of its revenues on developing new products, but the beauty of the business is that most

of that spending is funded by its customers. Recently, Ultra has been concentrating on winning new orders. Its most resonobuoys to the Ministry of Defence. yesterday.

Ultra finds the right That took its forward order book over £250m, a substantial chunk of which will be realised this year. In the meantime, Ultra's share of work on the Nimrod reconnaissance aircraft has grown to £56m.

ing f4.8m on acquisitions last year Ultra Regent's like-for-like sales growth, which added more than £3m to its cash pile last ports. Second, with a market capitalisation year, taking its reserves to £9m and leaving plenty of room for future deals. But with such a long-term, predictable business,

Ultra's pre-tax profits rose to £18.1m (£14.1m) in 1997. Merrill Lynch forecasts in the industry. profits of £20.5m this year placing the since the group joined the stock market shares, down 2p yesterday to 380p, on a Ultra's case, fully justified.

Regent Inns can keep on growing

Regent Inns has produced a princely openings a year. performance since it came to the stock market five years ago. But concerns that its phenomenal growth rate is bound to slow have cast a shadow over the group in the last 12 months. In that time it has underperformed the market by more than 20 per cent and its shares have fallcent coup was a £32m contract to supply en from a high of 373.5p to close at 334p

To some extent the fears are justified. With billions of pounds being poured into the pub market by all the major groups, returns are bound to fall. Intense competition from a host of new themed bars and restaurants is taking its toll on

Planning delays of up to 18 months will limit the speed with which it can expand its estate. And it will struggle to maintain operating margins of more than 29 per cent, which are already among the best

However the fall in the share price looks harsh. Regent is still likely to grow forward multiple of 18. Not cheap but, in at a rate which would turn most of its rivals find decent sites in London, but there is plenty of scope to take its bars, including its Walkabout Inns and Jongleurs comedy clubs, around the country. Its strong management team have proved deft at finding the best locations and its cashflow will easily support at least another 20

Pre-tax profits for the six months to January rose 37 per cent to £7.3m. Analysts forecast full year profits of around £16m, rising to £20m the following year, putting the shares on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 21, then 17. That looks very reasonable for a group which should more than double its size over the next five years.

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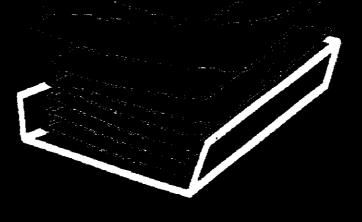
How do I

find the time to improve performance?

How do I find the time to plan for tomorrow?

> How do I find the time to find new clients?

YOU'RE BUSIER THAN EVER. SO WHERE DO YOU GO FROM HERE?



Grade sells First Leisure's bingo to managers for £38m

Michael Grade, the former head of Channel 4, yesterday pulled off his first major strategic move at First Leisure since joining the bars to bowling group as chairman last summer, by selling its Riva bingo division for £38m to the division's management team. Riva is the third largest bingo club in the UK with 22 clubs and five more planned. It has been savaged by the National Lottery and in the year to 31 October it made an operating loss of £7.2m.

House prices driven up

A shortage of properties is continuing to drive house prices higher. All regions in England and Wales, except the Northwest, saw prices rise in January, according to the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Its quarterly survey of estate agents for the three months to the end of January showed a small increase in the number of homes coming on to the market. But this did not meet the marked shortage which continued to send prices higher, with the problem most severe in the South-east. RICS predicted prices on average will rise by about 6 per cent this year.

Independent statistics plan

Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, will today announce plans to create an independent official statistical service, as promised by Labour in its election manifesto. The Office for National Statistics has already tackled one of the Government's main concerns with its decision to improve the presentation of figures on the jobs market. A period of consultation with statistics users is expected to follow today's announcement.

Midshires profits ahead

Profits at Birmingham Midshires, the fourth largest building society, rose 11.4 per cent to £50.5m in its final year of trading before it is acquired by Royal Bank of Scotland. Earnings growth was boosted by a 16.2 per cent rise in gross lending to £946.5m. Mike Jackson, chief executive, said: "As well as achieving organic growth, we reinforced our determination to grow through acquisition and we continue to be on the look out for quality additions to the family at the right price." Royal Bank is paying up to £630m for Birmingham Midshires.

Cadbury buys bottlers

Cadbury Schweppes, the chocolate and soft drinks group, yesterday soothed City worries over its drinks distribution in the US with the £441m purchase of two American bottling companies. The company said the deals will secure the future of its 7-Up brand and others in the American soft drinks market. The City had been concerned that Cadbury was overreliant on the bottling and distribution system of arch-rival Coca-Cola. Cadbury will be a minority equity partner with Carlyle Group in the acquisition of Midwest Beverage America and Select Beverages, but it will have full management control of the new group, to be called American Bottling Company. Cadbury Schweppes shares rose 20.5p to 756.5p.

Confusion over Indonesia

Confusion still surrounds Indonesia's plans to establish a currency board in a bid to stabilise the local currency, which has fallen more than 70 per cent in value since July. Yesterday Mar'ie Muhammad, the finance minister, told parliament he was still working on the plan but was awaiting a final decision from President Suharto on when it would be implemented. The news came 24 hours after Robert Rubin, US Treasury Secretary, offered his congratulations to Indonesia for dropping the plan.

Centrica in 'take or pay' deal

Centrica, the gas supply company, is paying £43m for significant reductions on the bulk of its high priced "take or pay" contracts with Phillips Petroleum, Fina and Agip. As a result, prices will be reduced to current market levels on the remaining field reserves from October 1998, the company said.

COMPANY	7007	1.7		•
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Advest Automotive (1)	112.2m (87.13m)	7.26m (6.29m)	5.7p (5p)	2.3p (2.3p)
Bowness Laisure (F)	2.44m (2.17m)	0,325m (0.249m)		7.5p (5.0p)
Brewin Dolphia (F)	48,47m (41.50m)	7.22m (5.03m)		9.5p (8.0p)
Community Hospitals (i)	29.0m (25.7m)	8.04m (4.95m)	11.9p (9.8p)	4.4p (3.9p)
Conister Trest (F)		0.963m (0.905m)	3.99p (4.04p)	1.6p (2.0p)
Byras Group (1)	1.9m(0.014m)	-1.92m (-1.44m)	-8.5p (-8.4p)	nii
Hillermian Group (F)	-(-)	IR 43.2m (31.8m)		
HSBC (F)	-(-)	4.97bn (4.52bn) .		50p (41p)
Haylawa (F)	392.7m (274.6m)		10.23p (5.32p)	
Regust lans (I)	25.42m (20.56m)		9.2p (6.3p)	1.3p (1.0p)
TOE (F)	618.8m (506.2m)	30.60m (35.18m)		
Ultra Electronics (F)	143.4m(123.6m)	18.09m (14.09m)		
Wyndham Meter Grp (F)	81.51m (70.29m)	1.57m (1.45m)	33.09p (56.55p	
Zoteloams(F)	24.2m (21.4m)	7.86m (6.90m)	15.6p (12.6p)	
(P) - Pinal (1) - interim			(re-old)	or h (ordh)

DP sle 00.4%

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ABEI



OUTLOOK

ON BARCLAYS' HUNT FOR A PARTNER, THE WAY FORWARD FOR JAPAN. AND BRITISH AIRWAYS' LATEST VISION OF THE FUTURE

Barclays looks desperate for a deal, any deal FIRST Nat West. Now Standard Chartered. Tomorrow, who knows, Credit Lyonnais? Barelays' hunt for a partner with whom to

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"consolidate" seems to be taking on an increasingly desperate air. Martin Taylor's belief in the consolidated future of banking, both domestic and international, is well known but does the Barclays' chief executive really need to be tarting himself around town with such apparent abandon?

From the outside, this begins to look like a man without a strategy. We know a merger with NatWest was suggested some months back. We now know some kind of a suggestion was also put recently to Standard Chartered, albeit in an off the cuff manner which may not have been wholly serious. And there are persistent rumours that any day now Barclays will lum round and merge with the Pru.

While all three of these potential partners fit in with the general theme of consolidation in the financial services industry, they are in truth all so different one from another as reasonably to raise the question of what on earth is going on here. How can Barclays seriously lobby for a merger with NatWest one week, then turn round and start working on something wholly different the next. NatWest would be a cost cutting domestic merger, consolidating Barclays already powerful position in UK retail banking. Standard Chartered would for Barclays be a leap into the uncharted waters of international banking.

All managements need to have a fall back plan, of course, but this begins to look less like a plan B than someone who's just

a dangerous thing. Mr Taylor was travelling yesterday and was therefore unavailable for comment, but he really does need to say something to the City; his search for a merger partner looks more and more open to ridicule. There were almost open recriminations yesterday about the now famous Chez Nico dinner with Malcolm Williamson, chief executive of Standard. Who invited whom, who suggested a merger, who leaked it to the press, and why? The whole thing is plainly getting out of hand; it smacks of loss of control.

Does Barclays really need to do a deal, or is this not simply the pursuit of size for THE JAPANESE were miffed that the oththe sake of it? You don't need much of a memory to recall the days (though it was before Mr Taylor's time) when Barclays was constantly vying with Nat West for the position of Britain's biggest bank - largest by market value, largest number of branches (nobody wants that accolade anymore) largest profits, largest bad debt provision etc. That was in the 1980s. Both have since been overtaken by what in those days was an also ran. Lloyds.

In part, Lloyds achieved this breakthrough via that much forgotten but usually rewarding route to business success - hard graft and sensible management. As the other two were recklessly expanding their loan books and pursuing the testosterone driven world of investment banking, Lloyds was sticking to its knitting and being careful not to miss a stitch.

But it was also down to a couple of big takeovers - first Cheltenham and Glouces-

not unreasonable of Mr Taylor to dream of becoming the biggest once more, but it is a crude yardstick of success and if the ambition of it fails to create shareholder value along the way, it isn't worth a fig. Sir Andrew Large, whose appointment as deputy chairman at Barclays was announced vesterday, may find he has a few wings to clip by the time he arrives.

There is no quick fix for Japan

er six members of the G7 ganged up on them at the finance ministers' meeting at the weekend. Senior Japanese politicians continue to insist that steps already taken to reflate the economy are sufficient. This is plainly nonsense, even if Japanese annoyance about the public ding-dong is understandable. Japan looks dangerously close to economic and financial collapse, and with it the rest of Asia. All the same, it is not clear that the big tax giveaways proposed by the Americans and others are the right solution.

Let's forget for now the fact that the IMF has until very recently been warning Japan to get its ballooning government deficit and debt under control. A bigger deficit probably wouldn't help anyway. Consumers are saving, not spending. Company profits are too low to benefit from a tax cut. And the government has already spent a fortune on public works white elephants. If the government has to

money might simply end up going round in a circle and the whole thing would be a zero sum game in terms reflation.

Turning to monetary policy, the Bank of Japan could hardly cut interest rates any lower. Besides, demand management cannot tackle the country's deep-seated structural problems. Banks have lent to industry on non-commercial terms for decades, with the edifice propped up by the collateral of land and shares whose artificially inflated prices have now collapsed.

There is also a third way - to monetarise the bad debts of the banking system. The effect of such an approach would not be dissimilar to printing money and then disseminating it randomly through the economy, perhaps by dropping it from helicopters. In most countries this would be a highly inflationary thing but in a country where the main enemy is deflation, the effect might be beneficial. The Japanese government has already made as much public money available to the banks as the US authorities did in the aftermath of the savings and loan crisis. The problem is persuading the banks - reluctant to be seen needing the assistance - into accepting it.

And in any case, shoring up the capital base of the banking system may not be enough either. The idea is that the banks issue bonds to the government - in effect passing on their own bad debts - but they still need to inject the money they get in return into the economy. The authornies will have to hope that structural reform such as deregulation of restricted markets like telecoms will create suf-

got to do a deal, any deal. That's always ter building society, and then TSB. It is borrow heavily to deliver the tax cuts, the ficient profitable opportunities for lenders. As can be seen, the G7 is wrong to push for a quicker fix. There is none.

An airline without any aircraft

BOB AYLING is trying hard to forget that he once dreamt of turning British Airways into a virtual airline. The concept looked good on paper but in practice it shattered morale because staff understandably took it as a cuphemism for redundancy. What are we to make, therefore, of the BA chief executive's latest vision - an airline without any aircraft?

BA has asked Boeing and Airbus to come up with "innovative" ways of delivering £2bn worth of new jets. In plain man's language, what BA wants is to get the use of the aircraft without also being lumbered with the cost of ownership. It is an inevitably development. Why have big lumpy assets like aircraft weighing down the halance sheet when an airline has so many other calls on its investment programme?

Operating leases have long been fashionable as a means of supplying aircraft and BA itself has been at the cutting edge of new financing wheezes such as taking "put" options on jets and engines. Now it looks like going one step further and offloading all the costs of ownership, including residual valuations, back onto manufacturers in exchange for a straight rental payment. Others may not find it quite so easy to do. But BA is big enough to ensure that Boeing and Air-

GDP slows down to 0.4% as sterling squeezes exports

By Diane Coyle Economics Editor

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THE ECONOMY grew more slowly than expected in the final quarter of last year, with growth trimmed sharply by the trast between booming demand rating trade position could scarcely have been sharper.

The increase in GDP in the fourth quarter was just 0.4 per cent, revised down from the initial estimate of 0.5 per cent and less than half the rise in the third quarter.

The Office for National Stafor earlier quarters, trimming GDP growth for 1997 as a whole to 3.2 per cent from the initial estimate of 3.3 per cent.

The surprisingly weak figures trimmed three pfennigs off accounted for less than a quar-

sterling's exchange rate against ter of output. "Even 2 per cent the German mark, taking it to just over DM2.95.

Consumer spending bounced by 1.3 per cent, taking its vear-on-vear rise to the highest since mid-1989, at 4.5 squeeze on exports. The con- per cent. Altogether domestic spending, including investment added 1.5 per cent to the economy's growth, in its strongest quarterly rise since 1988.

But falling exports and a jump in imports knocked a full percentage point off overall fourth-quarter growth, leaving the overall expansion subdued.

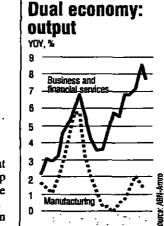
The figures did little to tistics also revised its estimates budge any City experts in their views about interest rates. Simon Briscoe at Nikko Europe said all of the strength in the economy was concentrated in business and financial services, which

on interest rates would not stop companies spending to tackle the millennium bug," he said.

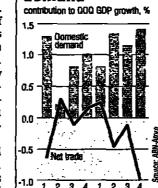
In the other camp, Adam Cole at HSBC James Capel, predicted the Bank of England would increase the cost of borrowing again because it was now mand and pay pressures at home. The diverging fortunes of

consumers and exporters was mirrored in the split between manufacturing and services. Manufacturing output fell by 0.4 per cent in the fourth quarter, while total industrial production dropped by 1.1 per cent thanks to a big fall in electricity, gas and water supply.

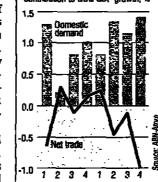
On the other hand, total services output climbed by 1.1 per cent, with both business services and finance and telecommunications surging.



1993 94 95 96 97 **Dual economy:**



demand



Ewart board members threaten chairman with legal action

By Peter Thal Larsen

THE CHIEF executive and other board members of Ewart, the property group, yesterday threatened to take legal action against their own chairman, Brian O'Connor.

The move is the latest twist in an acrimonious battle for control of the Belfast company, which received a new £25.8m bid

approach yesterday. Moyne, a to accept the Moyne approach shelf company created for the bid by drinks entrepreneur Paul Hunt, yesterday offered to buy Ewart for 79p a share in cash. This compares with last week's 75p revised offer worth £24.6m from Dublin-based Dunloe House and a share price last

night of 78.5p, up 3.5p. A majority of independent

but Mr O'Connor voted against it and is urging shareholders to accept the lower offer from Dunloe House which already holds a 26 per cent stake in Ewart and has two places on its board. Mr O'Connor owns 16 per cent of Ewart through his Fortress Hill company.

Barry Gilligan, Ewart's chief executive, said: "We are taking

sidering whether to take legal action against him." He believed Mr O'Connor was not acting in the interest of shareholders. Mr O'Connor said in a state-

up O'Connor's behaviour with

the Takeover Panel and are con-

ment: "I believe the uncertainty created by the bid situation over the past months should be brought to an end. My action is designed to achieve this."

board members at Ewart agreed This notice is issued in compliance with the regulations of the London Stock Exchange Limited ("the London Stock Exchange"). It does not constitute an offer or invitation to any person to subscribe for,

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It is expected that admission to the Official List will become effective and that dealings in the C Shares will commence on 2 April 1998.

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emptoon that the maximum number of C Shares are usued pravount to the Placing and Offer. Copies of the prospectus which was published on 23 February 1998 may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) from the date of this notice up to and including 25 February 1998, for collection only, from the Company Announcements Office up to and including 25 February 1998, for collection only, from the Company Announcements Office up to and including 25 February 1998, for collection only, from the Company Announcements Office up to and including 25 February 1998, for collection only, from the Company Announcements Office up to and other order of the London Stock Exchange, London S and during normal business hours on any weekdays (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) from the date of this notice up to and including 26 March 1998 from:

Aberdeen Convertible Income Trust PLC One Bow Churchyard London EC4M 9HH

Dated: 24 February 1998

Greig Middleron & Co. Limite 30 Lombard Street London EC3V 9EN

Waterstone's poised for sale to EMI venture

WH SMITH could announce the sale of its Waterstone's books division to a joint venture led by EMI as early as today. The two groups were working through the night to hammer out final terms which should value the chain at £300m, writes Nigel Cope.

Tim Waterstone, the bookselling entrepreneur who founded the chain, will be nonexecutive chairman. He will work almost full-time to start with though may take a less hands-on role later on.

The deal will not initially include Mr Waterstone's Daisy & Tom children's shops. Management on both sides felt the due diligence process had already taken long enough and were reluctant to delay the deal any further. However, Daisy & Tom is expected to become part of the group at a later stage.

EMI is leading the joint venture, which also includes Advent International, the US venture capital group which is

backing Mr Waterstone. The completion of the deal could lead to around £250m being returned to shareholders.

Investcorp trumps Quebecor with agreed bid for Watmoughs interest issues raised by this bid

By Peter Thal Larsen

INVESTCORP, the financial group backed by Middle Eastern investors, yesterday waded into the bid battle for Watmoughs with an agreed offer valuing the printing company at £250m. It also unveiled plans to create a major force in the European printing industry by merging Watmoughs

with one of its UK rivals. Investcorp has also tabled a

bid for British Printing Company, the privately owned printing group which specialises in weekly magazines. Richard Warner, a director of Investcorp, said a combination of Watmoughs and BPC would be

The 345p a share bid for Watmoughs trumped an earlier offer, pitched at 257p a share, from the Canadian group

European market.

a more viable competitor in the

Quebecor. Watmoughs had rejected Quebecor's offer.

Last night, Quebecor said it would "clarify its position" after the competition authorities had decided whether to refer Investcorp's bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Earlier yesterday, the Government gave Ouebecor's own offer the green

Ouebecor said: "The public

regarding the impact on both customers and employment in the UK. are significantly more complex than those raised in Quebecor's bid for Watmoughs."

However Investcorp, whose bid is conditional on it not being referred to the MMC, pointed out that BPC and Watmoughs would have less than 20 per cent of the UK market. "We don't believe we will have any regula-

HSBC Holdings plc

£23,486m



Results for 1997

For the year 1997 Profit before tax £4,971m £4,524m Profit attributable to shareholders £3,355m £3,112m

Earnings per share 125.70p Dividends per share 50.00p 41.00p

£25,236m

Operating profit before provisions up 16%

 Pre-tax profit up 10% and attributable profit up 8%

 In Hong Kong dollar terms, operating profit before provisions up 21%, pre-tax profit up 15% and attributable profit up 13%

Earnings per share up 7%

Capital resources

Dividends per share up 22%

Second interim dividend of 30 pence per share, with scrip dividend alternative

 Total capital ratio 14.2% and tier 1 capital ratio 9.3%

Comment by Sir William Purves, **HSBC** Group Chairman

The financial performance of HSBC Holdings in 1997 was satisfactory, with pre-tax profit up 10 per cent and strong growth in operating profit before provisions, up 16 per cent. Attributable profit of £3,355 million was 8 per cent ahead of the 1996 figure.

"Our Board of Directors has declared a second interim dividend of 30 pence per ordinary share. Together with the first interim dividend of 20 pence per share, the total dividend for the year will be 50 pence per share, an increase of 22 per cent over 1996.

"Our commercial banking businesses in the United Kingdom, North America and the Middle East produced results well ahead of 1996. while business in Asia was affected by turbulent conditions.

"The second half of 1997 and early 1998 have been dominated by these economic difficulties. The instability, brought about by dramatically weakening exchange rates, attracted significant customer deposits to our branches in the region and a larger volume of customer business to our treasury dealing rooms. The coincidence of weak exchange rates, significantly lower stock exchange levels and high interest rates in many countries, however, has led to a deterioration in credit quality, the full impact of which is only beginning to emerge.

"The Group has set aside £175 million in the form of a special general provision, reflecting this unusual level of uncertainty; and, additionally, other general provisions have been increased by £116 million to £1,052 million.

"Exchange rates again had an impact on our reported results, and at constant exchange rates, growth in attributable profit of 8 per cent would have been higher, at 12 per cent. Since the US dollar and currencies closely linked to it form the main currency bloc in which the Group's business is transacted, our Board has decided that the Company will report its results in US dollars starting in 1998. Dividends will be declared in US dollars; however, shareholders will continue to be entitled to receive their dividends alternatively in sterling or Hong Kong dollars or as scrip.

"We entered 1998 with sound liquidity, strong capital and a conservative balance sheet, attributes which have supported our profitable growth and served us well during weaker economic periods. Our business is well balanced geographically and by product line, and our commitment to cost discipline and profitable growth remains unchanged.

"It has been my privilege to work with the dedicated men and women of the HSBC Group for many years. Although I shall retire from the Group at this year's Annual General Meeting, during an interesting and, perhaps, difficult period, I am confident that their commitment will help HSBC continue to seize opportunities and reward shareholders in the challenging times ahead. ??

The 1997 Annual Report and Accounts will be sent to shareholders on or about 17 April 1998 and copies may be obtained from Group Public Affairs at the address below. Custodians or nominees that wish to distribute copies to their clients may request copies for collection by writing to Group Public Affairs. Requests should be received by not later than 6 March 1998.

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Investors prepare for the worst from Safeway

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

Safeway, the supermarket widening between Safeway, chain, is expected to pile high the fourth largest chain, and the agony today. The stock its bigger rivals, Tesco, J Sainsmarket is braced for a dismal bury and Asda. And although trading statement and only continuing takeover specula- Kwik Save and Somerfield is tion prevented the shares from seen as two weak players

falling more than 10p to 365p. The update, it is rumoured. will show sales growth over the group will represent increased important 14-week Christmas and new year period up by less than 3 per cent.

food retailers to produce a festive trading update. One, due last month, was surprisingly postponed, a delay which set alarm bells ringing. Then last Charters suddenly departed, underlining fears that the retailing group, which had already produced two profit warnings, could be encountering serious management problems.

There are even worries that the group has, in effect, been "buying" sales by cutting

The market sees the gap

the proposed grouping of offering support to each other,

there is little doubt the new competition to its nearest rival Safeway. Asda is known to be keen It is the last of the major to swallow Safeway. Talks

failed when it became apparent the Government would not welcome a £9bn Asda/Safeway alliance. Asda, it is suspected, has continued to press its case week trading director George in the corridors of power. It may be that Safeway's performance has declined so miserably it may be forced to seek a friendly merger. Sainsbury and Tesco are

Spencer could be interested,

although an M&S strike would

20.5p to 756.5p. 1,909p. Overseas investors

as high as 426.5p. They per cent ceiling. Unless the a weekend of takeover spectouched 319p in December, rallying on bid hopes.

Sainsbury, Tesco and M&S were lower.

After last week's heroics blue chips ran out of steam with Footsie falling 48.8 points to 5,702.8. Still the supporting indices remained firm, reaching new peaks.

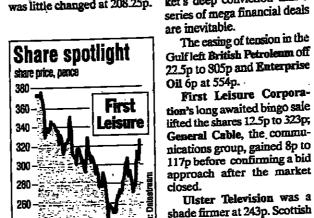
Profit-taking, an uncertain New York and weak futures combined to remove an early shine which took Footsie to a trading high and just 6.8 from the 5,800 milestone.

Bass celebrated its £1.8bn Inter-Continental Hotels & Resorts acquisition with a 56p gain to a 1.016p peak as fears that it paid too much were judged to be misplaced. Cadbury Schweppes, buying two ruled out on competition US soft drink bottlers, rose grounds. There has been vague talk that Marks &

British Aerospace was another at a new high, up 29p to

Safeway's shares have been have broken through the 29.5 foreign limit is relaxed - and many expect the Government Asda rose 2p to 204p; to do so - the surplus shares will have to be sold, which usually means the overseas in-

vestors involved suffer a loss. Rolls-Royce, the other aerospace group subject to a break over Standard is yet a 29.5p per cent foreign limit, was little changed at 208.25p.



General Cable, the communications group, gained 8p to 117p before confirming a bid approach after the market closed.

Ulster Television was a shade firmer at 243p. Scottish Media sold its 18.2 per cent stake at 250p a share to Can-West Global Communications,

Standard Chartered, after

ulation, ended 22.5p off at

742.5p after touching 803p in

heavy trading. It denied it was

in talks with Barclays, little

changed at 1,876p. HSBC, on

results, firmed 3p to 1,775p.

further illustration of the mar-

ket's deep conviction that a

The easing of tension in the

Gulf left British Petroleum off

22.5p to 805p and Enterprise

First Leisure Corpora-

tion's long awaited bingo sale

are inevitable.

Oil 6p at 554p.

The latest frenzied out-

the Canadian group which now has 29.9 per cent.

Transport Development, the transport group, surged 60.5p to 250p after producing plans to return £109m to shareholders and the sale of its plant hire business.

Body Shop International remained on edge over threats of legal action in the US, falling op to 121p. Merrill Lynch sell advice also hit seutiment. Brown & Jackson, the Poundstretcher chain, continued to respond to its improving trading performance, gaining 5p to 52p.

Printer Watmoughs rose 26.5p to 345p after Investcorp, lifted the shares 12.5p to 323p; a Middle Eastern group, made the signalled agreed offer -

Biocompatibles International clawed its way to 202p, up 27p, against the 130p low hit earlier this month following the unexpected departure of chief executive Alistair Taylor. Some dream of a Smith & Nephew bid.

TAKING STOCK

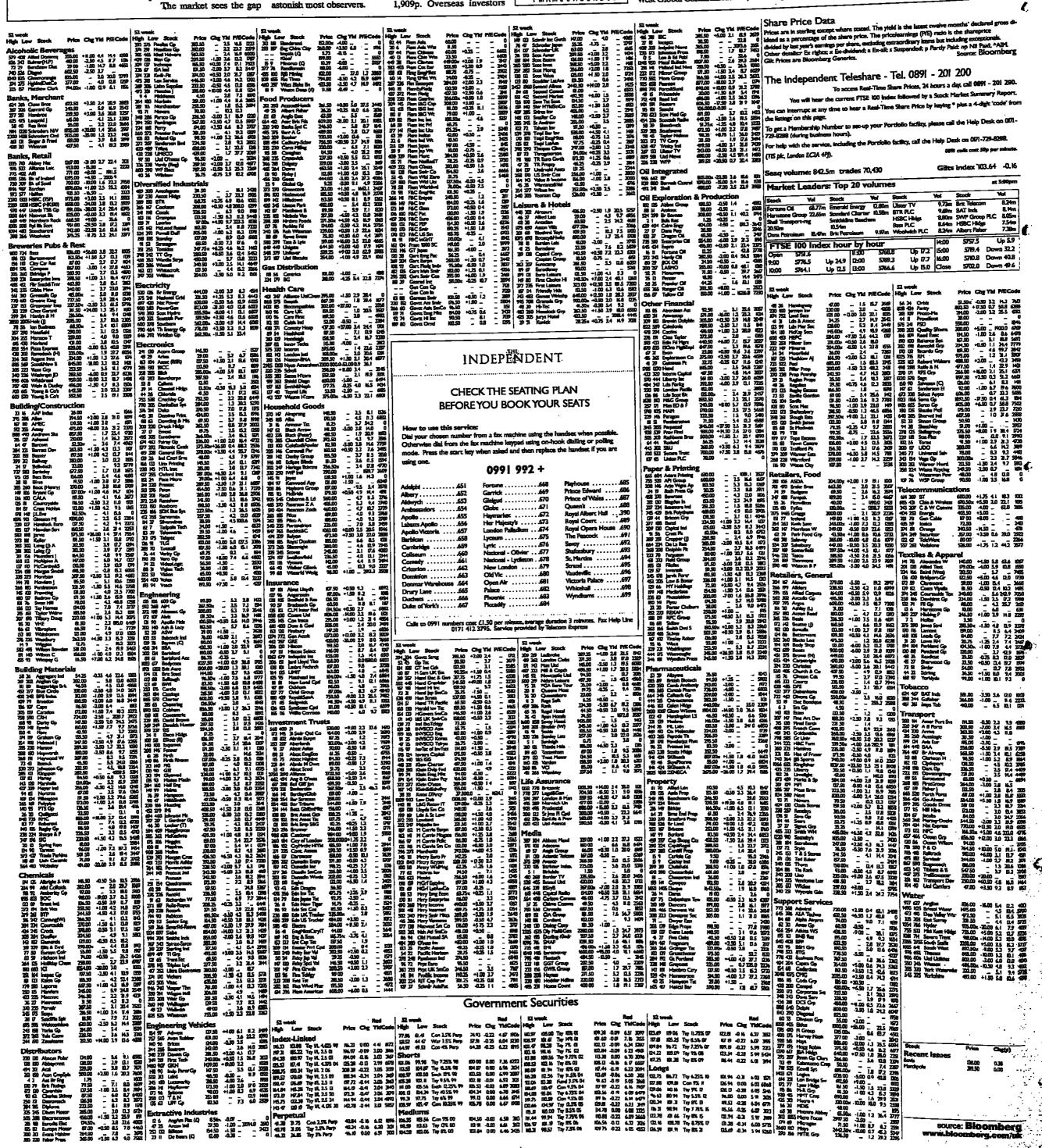
Robert Stephen Holdings, which holds most of the Rubin family's controlling stake in Pentland, has moved in on property shell Delyn. It has acquired the stake held by American James Terlizzi and now has 25.04 per cent. Merchant bank Dawnay Day has lifted its interest to 26.73 per cent. Delyn, which fought off a hostile bid last year, has more than £7m in cash. Its shares rose 1p to 117.5p.

othin:

Engineer Clyde Blowers has undertaken its first US investment presentations. Profits of around £5.8m against £1.1m are expected this year. The shares held at 251p.

Textile group Leslie Wise gained 2.5p to 14p on a bid approach. One suggestion is Joe Bloggs, the jean maker, is interested.

Ofex high-flyer Energiset, a dietary group, has paid £1.3m in shares for Reductogen, a drug business. Its shares rose 15p to 215p.





HAMISH **MCRAE** ON THE ISSUES WHERE THE MAIN PLAYERS CAN STILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By almost universal opinion last weekend's Group of Seven meeting in London was a failure. Financial markets were operation. They need structural disappointed that it did nothing action by individual governments. to attack their main preoccupations, the East Asian crisis meetings are a waste of time. and the renewed recession in Japan. And delegates were evidently less than impressed by British triumphalism over our success in cutting unemployment, the meeting's other main preoccupation.

More about Japan and East Asia in a moment, for the unemployment issue deserves more cut unemployment faster than another large industrial country (faster even than the US), you might imagine that others would want an analysis of the methods used and the lessons learnt.

They probably would have done, but instead the assembled delegates got an eight-minute promotional video of the Government's "New Deal" for the jobless, My colleague Diane Coyle, who saw it, says that the film, complete with uplifting visiting young unemployed people at a JobCentre, all expressing their enthusiasm for the new programme.

smiling leader" line did go down slightly better than the Tories' more direct triumphalism on British job creation at the Lille summit on unemployment two years ago. Maybe our continental partners will take it from Labour but not from the Tories

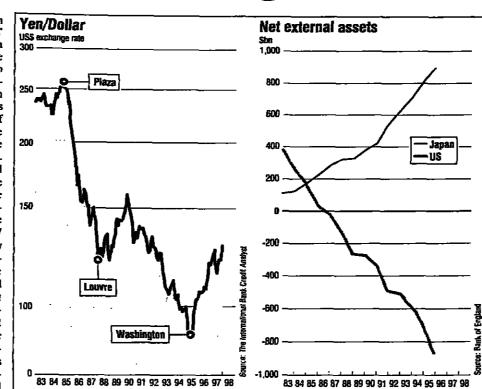
- or maybe after two years of total failure at job creation on the Continent, they are a little more humble themselves on this front. But if anyone had expected

the G7 to do anything on the Japan/East Asia difficulties or the continental European jobs disaster, they were looking at the wrong sort of institutions. The G7 - I suppose it should be G8, now that Russia joins as a sort of nonplaying member - can be effective where there is a global macro-economic problem that can be solved by agreement hetween the main players. But it cannot do anything where the problems are regional microeconomic ones. These problems do not require international co-

That is not to say that G7 There have been at least three really important ones in the last 13 years. The first was the G5 (Italy and Canada had not joined the club at that stage) meeting at the Plaza Hotel in New York in 1985. That was when the dollar was soaring, US producers were finding themselves uncompetitive and Japanese exports attention. Since this country has to the US were rising at such a rate that the US was considering some form of trade barrier.

That agreement - a statement that the dollar had risen too high, plus some intervention on the exchanges - convinced the world that the peak had been reached. A fall began, which was checked by the next important G7 meeting, at the Louvre in Paris two years later. The Louvre Accord declared that the fall of the dollar had gone far enough and established unpublished target music, shows the Chancellor zones within which central banks would seek to hold currencies.

You can see the impact of Plaza and Louvre in the chart on what is the mechanism that will tural change, but also on how to subject like that, rather than



Eventually, after the Louvre unpublished bands system had broken up, the dollar fell to unsustainable levels. By 1995 the yen/dollar rate was down to ¥80. Then came the third key G7 meeting in Washington in April that year. It declared that the fall of the dollar had gone too far. It took a week or two for the markets to believe them, but as you can see, that was indeed the turning point, for the dollar has been rising against the yen pretty

steadily since then. Moral: when there has been a foreign exchange market error driving currencies to unsustainable levels - G7 meetings can be very effective at bringing the markets back to their senses. But they cannot do much more. In particular, when they become an excuse for trying to persuade countries to do something they don't want to, they will disappoint; as they did last weekend.

The first is: if G7 cannot help,

ended (for a while) in 1987. The second is: at what stage does G7 become useful again?

on our model, though there is

only patchy evidence at the

moment of their desire to learn

from it. I suspect that the reform

process, both in Japan and on the

Continent, will be a 10-year-plus

job, not a three- to five-year one.

such as the G7? There are

gigantic imbalances in the world

which will need to be tackled

soon if they are not to damage

the world economy. The graph

most alarming: the way Japan has

become the world's largest

creditor nation and the US the

world's largest debtor. This can-

not go on. Graphs do not head

lem; it is structural one. So there

is no quick fix, but the G7 is the

one top-level body able to talk

about it and, in particular, to try

to persuade both sides that it is

not in their mutual self-interest

to allow such a build-up of claims

a G7 meeting is discussing a

This is not a currency prob-

in one direction for ever.

Where does this leave a body

The answer to the first lies in close, dispassionate, apolitical study of the British model. Our experience is very interesting both to Japan and to the Continent, more interesting than that of the US because the scale of the reforms in the UK have been much greater and the starting point less favourable.

Thus the market reforms made by the UK in the 1980s are on the right shows one of the now being studied closely in Japan to see if there are lessons that can be applied. Japan's version of the City's Big Bang of 1986 is a good example. And if only continental Europe could carry out a non-politicised analysis of job-creation in the UK, it would have much to learn.

If the UK has turned out to be lucky in getting the reforms over early, Japan and continental Europe are fortunate in having a model. They ought to be This raises two questions. able to use the model as a guide on the other. When you hear that not only on how to make struc-

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

IOHN WILLCOCK



Citibank's economics duo Neil MacKinnon and Michael Burke are leaving the US bank to set up their own consulting firm to advise corporate treasurers, fund managers and hedge funds on global markets.

Mr MacKinnon banded in his notice as chief currency strategist at Citibank yesterday morning after six years with the bank. He says his phone at home was ringing all afternoon with prospective clients congratulating him on the move.

"We think there is a niche for a an independent consultancy providing top quality research. We reckon about 70 per cent of our customers will be overseas," says Mr Mack-Kinnon. He has worked with Mr Burke, a former financial journalist and senior international economist at Citibank, for a number of years.

The duo's move drew some acid comments from a rival pundit who wished to remain nameless: "Everyone who's tried it hitherto has failed. There's no culture in the UK for people to pay for economic research because so much of it is shovelled out for free.

"What with the UBS redundancies, there could be a lot of consultancies being set up."

Bah, humbug. Mr MacKinnon, who cut his teeth advising Nigel Lawson and Margaret Thatcher at the Treasury, seems a jolly nice chap and I wish him and Mr Burke well.

John Redwood and his followers on the Europhobic right of the Conservative Party have found a new champion in the unlikely form of Robert Chote, FT economics editor and former writer for this very organ.

Mr Redwood, who was ordered to withdraw a press release last week condemning the City's award to Chancellor Helmut Kohl of the freedom of the City of London, has issued another one. This release refers to a "damning article appearing in Prospect magazine [which] reveals just how desperate personal relations are at the Treasury. Robert Chote is a highly respected Financial Times journalist and his accusations must be taken seriously."

Treasury colleagues, was beautised by this unexpected accolade, not least because the Daily Mail had already described the same article as clearly emanating from No 10.

Referring to Gordon Brown's spin doctor, Mr Chote sighed: "I don't know how far up Charlie Whelan's Christmas card list I was before this, but I must be further down it now."

The Berkeley Playhouse, the Mayfair lapdancing club chaired by John Paul, is hot to trot - in City parlance that is. The club, whose shares are traded on the Ofex market, issued a statement yesterday saying it has received an approach that may lead to an offer. The Berkeley has won itself a loyal following thanks to its speciality of providing "table dancers" who perform a strip-teasing dance for members. Sadly, this has yet to filter through to the bottom line and the company is expected to make a loss in the year to December 1997.

Mr Paul wants to open clubs in Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow and Paris but lacks the funds to do so. He is therefore looking for a deal to help bankroll his plans.

It is understood the club is in talks with five possible buyers and a further statement is due next week. The budding buyers are thought to include at least one quoted leisure group, a rival club and a consortium of wealthy individuals all keen table-dancing fans, no doubt.

Mr Paul is also hoping to open a basement in the Playhouse on London's Berkeley Street. This would take him back to his Sixties and Seventies roots when he was running trendy hang-outs such as Wedgies and Tokyo Joe.

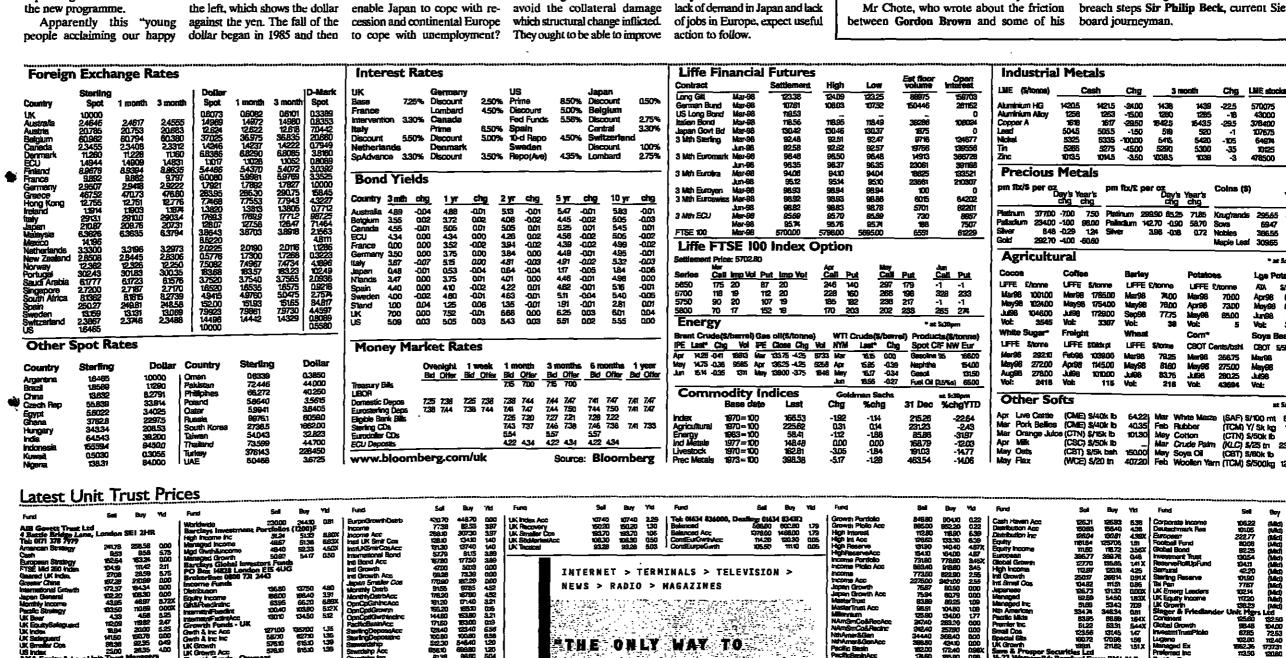
The World Bank is advertising for economists in the latest edition of The Economist: "Areas of desired expertise include: crisis management...."

Sounds like the Asian crisis hasn't quietened down as much as some people would like to

Sir Barry Stephens, chairman of Siebe, Simon Engineering and Premier Oil, is about to retire, opening the way for a fair amount of chair shuffling in City boardrooms

Can one really believe that Sir Barry is finally hanging up his boardroom boots after all this time? The 70-year-old is relinquishing the key to the Siebe executive washroom at the end of the week. His imminent departure is soon to be announced at Premier, the independent oil exploration company, as well as Simon Engineering. He might seem long in the tooth, given the current corporate governance fashion, but let's remember his predecessor at Premier, Roland Shaw had to be removed against his will at the age of 73.

Sir Barry's successor at Siebe is the slightmore spring-chicken-like Sir Colin Marshall, already chairman of about a billion other companies, including Inchcape. But the callow youth will not be able to take up his post at the engineering company until he vacates the top spot at the CBI in the summer. So who will fill in during the meantime? Into the breach steps Sir Philip Beck, current Siebe



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Pickard tells Henman's detractors to back off 'gam'

Tennis

John Roberts reports from Battersea Park

TONY PICKARD, the elder statesman of British coaches. made a plea for patience yesterday as Tim Henman prepared to put his damaged confidence to the test in Battersea Park tonight against Richard Krajicek, the 1996 Wimbledon champion.

After returning from Antwerp with his triumphant client Greg Rusedski, who on Sunday won his sixth ATP Tour singles title and rose to No 5 in the world rankings, Pickard spared a thought for Henman and his coach, David Felgate, who have suffered four first round defeats.

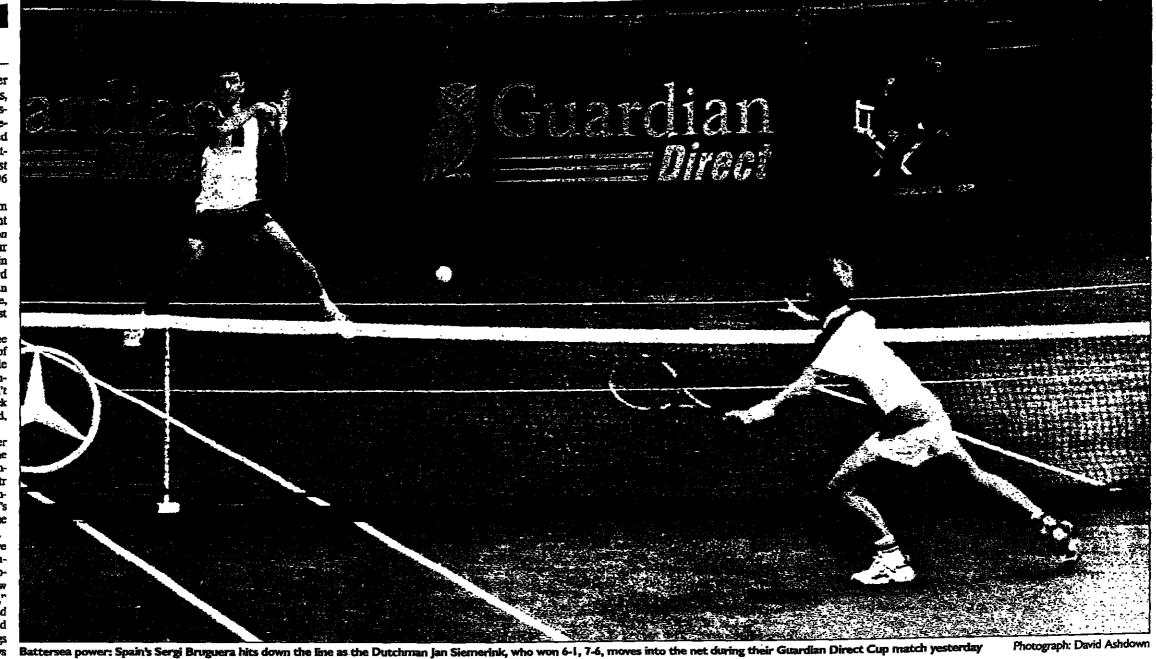
"They are going through the horrors, and are getting a lot of mixed opinions from people who don't know the circumstances." Pickard said. "I don't think people should stand back and criticise either Tim or David, because that is destructive."

Pickard, who helped steer Sweden's Stefan Edberg to the pinnacle of the sport and contributed towards the Czech Petr Korda's flourishing late career, introduced Henman to Britain's Davis Cup squad when he was the captain and Felgate the coach.

"People in this country have been starved of success at tennis for so many years that I suppose it's inevitable that they now have such high expectations," Pickard said. "Tim and David are new boys on the block, and they should be left to sort things out themselves. There's always a way out, and one or the other of them will cough it out.

"You can't win every match you play, otherwise you would play four tournaments a year. sport it is, you go through bad going right in a few months time, I'm sure Tim and David will sort it out in their own way."

Henman and Krajicek have only met once before, Henman



ending the Dutchman's Wim- I don't usually talk about a bad bledon reign and advancing to run until I'm over it."

the quarter-finals last summer. Krajicek, who has won the St and win the Grand Slam. There Petersburg title and eight of his No 1 in the world if he wins both is no real difference, whatever nine matches this year, understands Henman's current diffitimes. If things are still not not culties. "Players always find their own media the most negative," he said. "The last thing you want to talk about is a bad run of form, because you're try-

Whisper it, but it is possible for Rusedski to rocket to the \$815,000 Guardian Direct Cup here and next week's Rot-Sampras and the group chasing the American have two bad

First, of course, comes the ing to put it out of your mind. task of sustaining last week's im- tralian Open.

petus in his opening match tomorrow night against Germany's Marc-Kevin Goellner. Rusedski won their only previround of the 1994 French Open.

Rusedski's success in terdam tournament and Pete Antwerp was built on a solo trip to Split for the Croatian Open following the disappointment of his defeat by Todd Woodbridge in the third round of the Aus-

"There was a reason why Greg went to Split by himself," Pickard said. "It was deliberate. ous contest on clay, in the first Australian Open, something to the clay court tournaments he do with Greg's approach. I will have even more strength in wanted him to sort it out for his all round game." himself. I didn't want him to

> Rusedski, whose serve-volley centrate on clay court events in style is most effective on the faster surfaces, to play a full sea- albeit on the Satellite and Chal-

have a crutch to lean on."

son on the slow day courts of lenger circuit, "My best results Europe this year. "Greg won't be going to the Far East this think it's the best surface for I saw what was wrong at the time," Pickard said. "If he plays

Martin Lee, who enjoyed international success as a junior, Pickard has also persuaded is another Briton who will con-Europe in the months to come,

as a junior were on clay, and I

learning the game," he said. The 20-year-old Lee, who received a wild card for Battersea, was defeated in the first round yesterday by Bohdan Ulihrach, a Czech ranked No 31 in the world, 223 places above his opponent. Lee, beaten 6-4, 7-6 produced some excellent shots, both in attack and defence. He

had the first opportunity to break, in the second game of the opening set, before losing his serve at 4-4, and broke back impressively in the second to force

PHILIPS



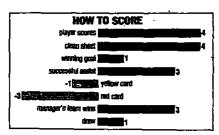
Today we publish the updated results of The independent Fantasy Football League. The league table includes all scores up to February 15th. The player list includes scores from all games played until February 22nd. ner will win a trip to the world cup finals in France next Summer.

Every time one of your players score you get four points. There are four points for a keeper or a defender every time their team keeps a clean sheet. If a player scores the winning goal. i.e.: if there is a one goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded 1 Neither set of scores includes results from the bonus point awarded in addition to standard goal related points. FA Cup. The manager who is the overall win- Each successful Assist, a pass judged by our experts to lead directly to a goal, will give a player 3 points. The opinion of every Tuesday in The Independent and repeated the folour experts on the matter is final. Each player selected and lowing Sunday in the Independent on Sunday. starting a game will be awarded one point.

If a player is given a Yellow Card they lose 1 point, if a player is given a Red Card they lose 3 points. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count. The Premiership Manager that you choose will be award-

ed 3 points if their real-life team wins. 1 point is awarded if they draw and no points are given if they lose.

Updated player scores and league tables will be published



Independent Fantasy Football

OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 8 AUGUST - 22 FEBRUARY

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	Mr S Walker Daniel's United 798 Mr M Ewins Mikes C Team 797 Mr G Bell Stunning Stunts 798 Mr M Ewins Started But Will I Finish 798 Mr M Ewins Mikes A Team 798 Mr A Mitchell The Eye For It 798 Mr S Aston Billy Boys 3rd 11 798 Mr G Ford Linthorpe Rovers 793 Mr J Cox Retro Rovers 793 Mr Mr K Boyle Clogston Rovers 793 Mr Mr K Boyle Clogston Rovers 793 Mr Mr M Ward Team A 40 793 Mr C Thomas Scunthrope Extras 793 Mr G Bell The Hairy Monsters 783 Mr G Bell The Hairy Monsters 783 Mr S Man Rebecca Rovers 783 Mr R Steer Steer 2 783 Mr T Brazier Wow For Short 783	400 Dison 403 Upson 404 Peti 405 Grimendi 406 Winterburn 407 Bould 408 Adams 409 Keewn 430 Southgate 434 Ehlogu 435 Nelson 436 Seimena 436 Might 437 Seimena 438 Grayson 439 Massa 440 Appleby 443 Hendry 445 Berg 446 Le Sans 447 Coleman 448 Hendry 449 Kenna 450 Henchoz	ARS 4 44 25 ARS 5 63 42 ARS 10 41 27 ARS 0 44 25 ARS 0 44 45 ARS 0 44 45 ARS 0 44 45 ARS 0 47 45 ARS 0 47 45 ARS 0 17 45 AV 2 47 12 AV 2 47 12 AV 2 11 22 AV 2 11 35 BAR 0 6 10 BAR 0 17 20 BAR 0 17 20 BAR 0 18 50 BAR 0 19 22 AV 2 14 51 BAR 0 6 10 BAR 0 10 60 34 CHE 1 65 50 BAR 0 57 19 BLA 0 67 19 BLA 0 67 19 BLA 0 67 20	i	•	600 Partico ARS 601 Pereira ARS 601 Pereira ARS 605 Victor ARS 606 Courseau ARS 606 Courseau ARS 607 Mendez Rodriguez ARS 608 Parior 609 Revenient 630 Desper 630 Desper 630 Desper 631 Marcelle 633 Mencelle 634 Mencelle 635 Reffeam 636 Eaden 637 Tander 638 Ballock 639 Wilcox 640 McKinhay 641 McKinhay 643 Sherwood 641 Politor 643 Sherwood 644 Pittonoft 645 Prandsen 646 Thompson 647 Politor 648 Sellars 650 Di Motteo 647 Politor 657 Politor 658 Referenten 659 Meallitter 650 Di Motteo 648 Sellars 659 Meallitter 650 Meallitter 650 Meallitter 650 Meallitter 651 Crit 652 Managen 653 Meallitter 654 Newton 655 Phaghes 656 Repept 657 Meallitter 658 Repept 657 Meallitter 659 Meallitter 650 Meallitter 650 Repept 657 Meallitter 658 Daily 659 Meallitter 650 Parion 657 Powell 658 Daily 659 Meallitter 650 Parion 657 Crant 657 Crant 657 Grant 657 Speed 658 Newton 657 Speed 659 Newton 657 Speed 659 Newton 657 Speed 659 Newton 657 Speed 659 Newton 659 Speed 659 Newton 659 Speed 659 Newton 659 Speed 659 Newton 659 Speed 659 Speed 659 Newton 659 Speed 659 Speed 659 Speed 659 Speed		748 Bishap 749 Berkovie 750 Longs 753 Jones 754 Earle 755 Ardicy 756 Fear 757 Chughes STRIKERS 800 Berghamp 803 Wright 804 Bounone Percin 805 Yorke 806 Villeirson 807 Hendrie 830 Hristov 833 Satton 834 Gallacher 835 Dahlin 836 Gallacher 835 Dahlin 836 Gallacher 837 Viaili 840 Ma Hughes 843 Viaili 840 Ma Hughes 843 Tore Andre Flo	ARS 0 99 75 ARS 0 99 75 ARS 0 40 72 ARS 1 1 20 AV 0 41 67 AV 2 48 81 BAR 0 10 13 BAR 0 10 15 BAR 0 15 15 BAR 0 187 33 BIA 1 14 40 BOL 5 3 27 CHE 1 62 90 CHE 1 62 90 CHE 0 39 44	897 Ekoka 898 Geyle 899 Euell MANACERS 901 Wenger 903 Little 904 Whom 905 Thodgron 905 Todallin 908 Strachan 909 Coppell 930 Smith 931 Kendell 933 Kendell 934 Graham 935 O'Nelll 936 Penns 937 Ferguson 938 Dalgish 939 Picar 940 Jones 941 Francis* 942 Kuncar	ARS AV BLA BOLL COV CRY DER EVE LIEI LIV MAN NEW SHOU TOT WH WIM	0 26 49 49 49 49 49 49 49 49 49 49 49 49 49
_		TI AOU MOUNT IIRE	to know more about Philips	and a second broom	new history out a ton , 000	IEININ CONCINCI	no az bienionsji bi	ibished. Supported b	y Philips Ecotone , The	Energy Same Title		

brokes go just 20-1.

at 50-1 with the Tote - Lad-

attracted 12 entries, many of

whom are doubtful runners.

The ground at Kempton

promises to ride on the fast side

and, at this stage, King George

VI Chase runner up Chal-

Jenger Du Luc - 7-2 with Coral

- the course-specialist Super

Tactics - 7-1 with Coral and

William Hill and the speedy

Land Afar - 7-1 with William

hill - may be the trio to con-

Executive Decision is a top-

priced 20-1 with the Tote fol-

lowing his 21/2-length victory

over Snow Dragon in the Grade

Three Juvenile Hurdle at Na-

16-1

16-1

15-1

33-1

75-1

20-1

40-1

7-1

6-1

12-1

20-1

20-1

25-1

25-1

33-1

centrate on.

van on Sunday.

Greenalls Grand National Trial H'cap Chase (3m 4f Il0yds)

The Racing Post Chase has

Racing's futures market

DOM SAMOURAL, the run-

ner-up in the 3m 5f 110yds

Welsh National, is a top-priced

11-1 with the Tote - Coral of-

fer just 8-1 - for the Greenalls

Grand National Trial at Hay-

dock on Saturday. Dom Sam-

ourai stayed on well over an

inadequate 3m 2f 110yds to fin-

ish seven lengths second to Ot-

towa at Chepstow last Saturday,

raider from Ireland, who beat

Heist by a neck in the Grade

Three Grand National Trial

over 3m 1f at Fairyhouse re-

cently, is 20-1 with Ladbrokes

while, among the outsiders,

Druids Brook catches the eye

Him Of Praise (O Sherwood/10st1lb)

Streth Royal (O Brennan/10st9lb)

Call It A Day (D Nicholson/10st7fb

Court Melady (P Nichols/10st4lb)

Dom Samoural (M Pipel9st10b)

Euclipe (M Pipe/fishib)

Belmont King (P Michals/fist10b)

Shanagarry (P Heffemen(ki)/9str2lb)

Auro Anson (Miss J Camacho/ Dst*1 b)

Colonel in Chief (G Richards/9st 11b)

Kendal Caraller (B R Milman/8st11fb)

Brave Hightander (J Gifford/9st2b)

Antonin (Mrs S Bramel(iri)/10st32b)

General Pongo (T George/Set6lb)

Druid's Brook (K Balley/Bst81b)

Superior Finish (M Filman/10st310)

Tell The Mipper (M Hourigan(ri)/9s(3b) 14-1

econd Schedust Olies A McMahan@9/Est3bi 33-1

Lo Stregge (T Tale/10st11b)

Into The Red (J King/10st \lb)

Earth Summit (N Twiston-Davies/10st 13(b)

Horse (Trainer)

William Hill offer just 12-1 -

Tell The Nipper, a possible

Ramsden 'horrified' by allegation

Racing

By Greg Wood

whose libel action against The Sporting Life is expected to reach its conclusion this week, both returned to the witness box vesterday following allegations made on Friday morning that Jack Ramsden had ordered Kieren Fallon, the champion jockey, to "stop" a horse in a race at Newmarket in 1995.

The claim was made by Derek Thompson, a presenter Swaffham Handicap, in which the lockey finished fifth on Top that "I was asking, 'what hapnoon. I thought he would win', and Kieren's words were. I but when I got into the paddock, me". Jack told me to stop it."

Yesterday, Jack Ramsden denied that any such conversa-

he was "horrified" by the alle- lier in the trial, he had admitgation. "The first thing I did was ted that Webster, who is an own-Jack and Lynda Ramsden. said. "I couldn't believe it. I was was the remotest truth in it." he pretty appalled at anyone suggesting anything like that," Ramsden said that the in-

structions he had given to Fal-

lon would have been the same as those he gave for *90 per cent" of his horses, to settle the horse and do his best. He denied a suggestion by Richard Hartley QC, representing The Sporting Life, that he had "decided the horse should not be with Channel 4 Racing, who re-allowed to run on its merits" in ported a conversation with Fallon in the Old Plough Inn near cause a widespread tip in the Newmarket a few hours after the morning papers had caused its price to shrink to 6-1, which Ramsden did not consider to be Cees. He told the High Court a value het. Ramsden, though, said that he knew the owner of pened with Top Cees this after- Top Cees had staked £400 eachway on his horse, and that he would not have any owners left thought he would win as well. in the yard if they do not trust

> Ramsden denied having talked to Colin Webster, a rails bookmaker, before the start of

ring Mr Fallon to see if there er at the Ramsden's yard in Yorkshire, pays him £5,000 a year for "information". "How would you react," Hartley asked him yesterday, "if one of your employees had an arrangement like that?" Ramsden replied: "I would be very disappointed

and very surprised." He also insisted that Fallon would never have referred to him as "Jack", even though he agreed with Hartley that Fallon had called his wife "Lynda" on six occasions while giving evidence earlier in the trial. When Lynda Ramsden took the stand, she told Patrick Milmo QC, representing both the Ramsdens and Fallon, that "I've always said to him, 'call me Lynda', but he always refers to my husband as Mr Ramsden."

Cross-examined by Hartley, Lynda Ramsden said that she had no interest in betting, "I'm not interested and I don't get involved," she said. Hartley then asked: "Or is it that you shut your eyes?" "No," she said, "I'm not interested in gam- are expected to deliver their tion had taken place, and said the Swaffham Handicap. Ear- bling. My husband is his own

man, he doesn't tell me what he's had a bet on."

Earlier, Mrs Ramsden was pressed as to whether her husband could have spoken to Fai-Ion without her knowledge. "I am suggesting." Hartley said, "that it would have been the easiest thing in the world."

"We didn't split up into twos or threes," she responded, "In the paddock at Newmarket, you need to keep together or you would probably get separated." When asked if her husband had told Fallon to stop Top Cees, she said: "We have never ever said that to a jockey so there was no reason why we should start there?"

The plaintiffs are suing over an article in The Sporting Life in May 1995, the day after Top Cees won the Chester Cup, which accused them of "cheating". Mirror Group Newspapers, publishers of The Sporting Life, deny libel, on the grounds that the article was justified and fair comment on a matter of public interest. The case continues today, when the counsels closing speeches.

enson, in December, 1992.

runners at Newcastle on Mon-

day and probably continue un-

til the end of the season."



Ramsden: denies 'stopping' claim Photograph: Dan Abraham

Connections of each horse will be able to walk the course to train will be put to the test in the morning in order to help Arguments have raged over make an informed choice.

> NAP: Nordance Prince (Doncaster 3.00)

HYPERION

 Course is E of town off the A638 (M18 Jcts 3 & 4). Bus link from Doncaster Central station. ADMISSION: Club £16; Grandstand £9; Family Enclosure £3 (under-16s free all enclosures) CAR PARK: Free

LEADING TRAINERS: Mirs M Reveley 14 winners from 81 runners (success rate 173%), D ■ LEADING JOCKEYS: P Carborry 11 winners from 37 rides (success rate 29.7%), P Niver 11-56 (16.7%), L Wyer 10-58 (17.2%), R Guest 6-37 (16.2%). en in too (10.7%). La tryes to too (11.2%), in clusted to of (10.2%),

— FAVOURITES: 705 wins from 2.23 races (success rate 33.2%),

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Further Future (2.00), Tibetan (3.00), Emiline Street (visored, 2.30).

2.00 MANNY BERNSTEIN RACING TEXT SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) 52,000 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value 51,730

4.00 Silver Wonder

4.30 Rhossili Bay (nb)

to the start of the Turf Flat-rac-

from stall 21 to score.

The draw for the consolation has also been discussed by rac-

Peter Cheesbrough yesterday Cheesbrough sent out 30 announced that he is likely to winners during the 1992/93 seagive up training at the end of the son but lost many of his best jumps season. He took over the horses - including One Man licence at Crawleas stable in at an end-of-season dispersal sale Bishop Auckland after the and never matched that tally. After recording 27 successes death of his uncle, the leg-

endary trainer Arthur Stephin 1993/94 his totals decreased to eight in 1994/95, four in 1995/96 and five last term. He Cheesbrough, who combines training with farming, said: "It's has saddled only two winners this season, the last coming when got to the stage where the Majority Major scored at Marfarming side is going through a bad patch as well and can't subket Rasen in December. sidise the horses. I'll have some

 Adrian Maguire was vesterday made 3-1 second favourite to end his Cheltenham hoodoo in style next month. The jock-

ev, who has missed the National Hunt Festival for the last three years, is behind only 2-1 market leader Richard Dunwoody in Irish firm Cashmans' opening show of betting on the top rider at the meeting. Last year's top jockey. Tony McCoy, is quoted at 4-1, alongside Charlie Swan who won the prize in

1993 and 1994. • The apprentice Shashi Righton received a two-day ban for careless riding at Southwell yesterday. The stewards found that Persian Fortune, ridden by Righton, had interfered with Girl Of My Dreams.

Parsons Boy (G Richards/9615lb) 66-1 Mice Diskin (R Buckler/7st/3b) 100-1 Racing Post Handicap Chase (3m) Horse (Trainer) Challenger Du Luc (M Pipe/1/s10b) Celli II A Day (D Nicholson/10stilib) Jäbber The Kibber (Mrs J Pamen/9st9tb) Even Flow (1 Casey/Bst4lb) Land Afar (P Webber/10st5lb) Super Tactics (R Ainer/10s/10b) Callisce Bay (O Sharwood/11st) Eudine (M Poe/Tist) 2.1 Colonel in Chief (G Richards/9st10b) frying Again (D Gandolfo/10s110lb) 16-1 natrak Express (Mrs. J Pitman/10stElb)

Visionum weight: 10st. Each-way a quarter the odds, places, 1, 2, 3 (Kempton, Salumby) "

25 I

Champion Hurdle (2m 110yds)								
Horse (Trainer)	Coral	William Hill	Ladbrokes	Total				
istebreq (A P O'Brien/Irt)	7-2	3-1	11-4	3-1				
Dato Star (J. M. Jefferson)	6-1	11-2	5-1	5-1				
Stradow Leader (C Egerton)	8 -1	7-1	6-1	8-1				
Grimes (C Roche/H)	16-1	14-1	14-1	14-1				
Coller Bay (J Old)	14-1	20-1	16-1	16-1				
French Holly (F Murphy)	16-1	20-1	*10 -1	20-1				
Kennul (N Twiston-Davies)	16-1	20-1	16-1	20-1				
Summertino (D Nicholson)	20-1	20-1	20-1	16-1				
Pridwell (M Pipe)	20-1	20-1	25-1	20-1				
Relicel (D Nicholson)	20-1	20-1	25-1	16-1				

Triumph Hurdle (2m 1f)						
Horse (Trainer)	Coral	William Hill	Ladbrokes	Total		
Zeferebed (D Nicholson)	9-2	7-2	41	9-2		
City Had (Mrs V Ward)	14-1	12-1	12-1	12-1		
Rainwatch (M Pipe)	12-1	14-1	14-1	14-1		
Derapour (A P O'Bnen/hr)	10-1	14-1	12-1	16-1		
Iron County Xmas (D Wekl/iri)	14-1	16-1	16-1	12-1		
Rainbow Frontier (M Pipe)	14-1	16-1	16-1	14-1		
Executive Decision (M. Grassici/iri)	16-1	15-1	14-1	20-1		
Supply And Demand (G L Moore)	25-1	20-1	20-1	25-1		
Upgrade (N Twiston-Daves)	16-1	20-1	20-1	25-1		

Horse (Trainer)	Corat	William Hig	Ladbrokes	Total
See More Business (P Nichols)	7-2	4-1	4-1	3
Dorans Pride (M Houngan/M)	5-1	5-1	41	5-
The Grey Monk (G Richards)	9-1	B-1	B-1	<u>-</u>
Suny Bay (C Brooks)	10-1	12-1	10-1	70-
Cyborgo (M Pipe)	12-1	14-1	10-1	12-
Strong Promise (G Hubbard)	15-1	16-1	16-1	16-
Rough Quest (T Cesey)	18-1	20-1	29-1	20
Addington Boy (G Richards)	20-1	20-1	25-1	20
Challenger Du Luc (M Pipe)	25-1	25-1	25-1	20-
Escartefigua (D Nicholson)	40-1	40-1	33-1	33
Barton Bank (D Nicholson)	50-1	33-1	50-1	40

FONTWELL
2.00: 1. NORDIC PRINCE (Michael Brannar) 11-8; 2. Zelsan 20-1; 3. Sharp Deed 68-1 9 ran, evens fav Bozo (fell) 17, nk. (J. O'Shea, Stratford Upon Avon). Tote: \$2.0; \$140, \$2.40, \$2.80, DF: \$1480, CSF: \$23.45. Tric: \$670.

1740, EARI, 3.00: 1. RYTON RUN (J Culoty) 20-1: 2.

3.00: 1. FYTON RUN (J Cutory) 20-1; 2. Churchtown Chanca 7-1; 3. Northern Oplinist 2-1; 4. Highland Flame 6-1 18 ren. 7-2 fav Wonderfull Polly. 11/2. 2 (Mcs S Odel. Chipping Norton) Rote: CSF90; E360, E260, E250, E250, E360, E75540, E75: E5333. Tincast: £168138. Tric: £66970.
3.30: 1. FLAMLEY WOOD (6 Fowel) 3-1; 2. King Of Sperta 9-4; 3. Uron V 33-1.5 ran. 2-1 tav Quitalquay (eth.) 3, 3 (R Buckler, Bndport). Tote: £300; £150, £140. DF: £500. CSF: £559.
4.00: 1. MAMMY'S CHOICE (A Thomson) 7-4; 2. Hewalken Youth 11-8 fav; 3. Equity Player 7-1. 6 ran. 4, dist. (R Ares; Blandford Forum). Tibe: £240; £120, £140. DF: £250. CSF: £440.

tav; 2. Damakshan 9-1; 3. Serenus 5-2 7 ran. 2'h, '/.. (G. I. Moora, Brighton). Tote: £200; £120, £230, DF: £720, ČSF: £129 Placepot: £5180. Quadpot: £1850. Place 6: £4839. Place 5: £1921.

SOUTHWELL 1.45: 1. KILLARNEY JAZZ (T Lucas) 7-fav; 2. Mr Fund Switch 16-1; 3. Sky Mount Mowbrey) Tota: £230; £110, £660, £410, DF; £5160, CSF; £3440, Tricast; £26140, Trio;

E20780. 2.15: 1. PIPE NUSIC (C Lowther) 7-2; 2. 2.15: 1. PIPE NUSIC (C Lowther) 7-2; 2. Nult D'Or 11-4 tav; 3. River Frontier 7-2. 8 ran. Hd, 12. (P Hastam, Middleham). Teste: Tat. 10, 82 (F Hassart, Modernam), toget 640: £180 £140, £130 DF: £510 £55: £1004. Thoast £33/5. Trio; £620 NR; Mystery Man. 2.45: 1. PRIVATE DESPATCH (A Mo-Carthy) 5-1; 2. Marytavy evens fav. 3. Evezio Rufo 3-1.8 ran. 4.3½. (M Cuinn, Warntage). Totas: £610; £120. £110, £160. DF: £520. CSF: 5th.48

250: 2250: 2590: C130 DF: C1890: CSF. C1890. Ticsss: (2480: Tics: 12650: 0.10: 12650: 3.45: 1. ERRO CODIGO (P. Fredericks) 9-4 jr fav; 2. Seur/flous 14-1: 3. Ajnad 9-4 jr fav; 14-ran. 1½, 1½. (S. Kettlewell, Md-dleham), Totas (2300; C140; C400; C200: DF: C1850: CSF: R4540: Tic: CB740; C200: DF: C1850: CSF: R4540: Tic: CB740; C190: CSF: R4540: Tic: CB740; C190: CSF: C190: C190: CSF: C190: CSF: C190: C190: CSF: C190: C190: CSF: C190: C190: CSF: C190: C190: C190: C190: CSF: C190: C 4.45: 1. MOONRAKING (A Cultane)

3.15: 1. ANTONIAS MELODY (C Teague) 7-2; 2. Patina 25-1; 3. Welcome Lu 5-2 lav 11 run. 2, 1. (S R Bowrng, Mansfield) Tota: 55:0; 62-50, 65:90, 61:30, DF: 61:890, CSF:

4.45: 1. MOONRAKING (A Culterne)
5-2: 2. Nakthei 14-1; 3. Ajder 9-4 tav. 9 ram.
1. stri-hd. (T Etherington, Melhon, Tote:
53.67: C170, 52.40, 51.40, DF: 524.70, CSF:
536.77. Thosast: £85.19. Tho: £35.70, CSF:
536.77. Thosast: £85.19. Tho: £35.70, CSF:
53.15: 1. CAROL AGAIN (J Outro) 12-1;
2. Pickeans 13-8 tav; 3. Areish 11-4, 8 ram.
3/s. 5. (N Bycrott, Brandsby). Tote: £94.0,
£200, £120, £130, DF: £20.80, CSF: £33.44
Thosast: £71.7.

Jackpot: Not won. Pool of £11905.40 carried forward to Doncaster today. Placepot: £8750. Quadpot: £4050. Place 6: £17.75, Place 8: £75

INDEPËNDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + DONCASTER 971 981 LINGFIELD 972 0891 261 970

Trainers go for the draw to prove superiority Cheesbrough forced to give up training

Trainers' knowledge of draw advantage as well as their ability when the stalls positions for next month's Lincoln Handicap are allocated.

The Jockey Club have given permission for a new system to be introduced in which the trainer, or the authorised representative, of each entry will have the chance to choose their stall number in an order decided by ballot. The draw for the Doncaster race, the first big event of the Flat season, will be made in public on 26 March - two days before the contest.

2.00 Bollero

2.30 Motoqua

3.30 Glamanglitz

GOING: Good to Firm (Good on chase course in straight).

RICHARD EDMONDSON NB: Pearly Queen (Lingfield 2.45)

Doncaster's clerk of the course, John Sanderson, said: The draw for the Lincoln has always been a matter for great debate and this innovation will provide some additional live theatre as well as a new aspect ing authorities in Australia.

ing season,"

the years about the effect of the draw in the race, a one mile handicap run over the straight course. A runner from a lownumbered stall won the race every year from 1993 to 1996 but last season Kuala Lipis came

Spring Mile will be made in the usual manner. But a similar public draw is planned for the Kentucky Derby on 2 May and

FORM GUIDE

LIFEBUOY won at Cartisle in November after running Symbol Of Success (four wins this season) to three pairs of a length on his chasing debut at Weltherby and he probably needed the race – his first in nearly three months – when well beaten on a return to the former track. He acts on tast ground and can return to the joint here. Most of the opposition has disappointed on their latest outlings, the exception being Up For Ransome, who has taken the minor position on his last two outlings, most recently behind Maybe O'Grady when supported from 4-1 to 9-4 at Newcastle, Grange Court cannot be backed with confidence after being pulled up in his last two races – at Worcester and Exeter – but it will come as no surprise to see him back to his best with Tony McCoy booked for the ride, lan Williams's charge, a bumper and point-to-point accret, would have won Lovable Outlaw's race on his fencing bow at Untraveter in November except for sipping and unessting three out and he made amends next time when beating See Enough three and a half lengths at Towester. Microgais shortd a bumper at Gowarn before joining David Nicholson's team and she was a triple hundles scorer last term. She was beaten when tailing so, out on her fencing debut at Warwick and was males behind at Chetherham last time but there is plently of room for improvement in her at the age of str. Pebble Beach has failed to complete in both attempts since his Hexham with in October but he would be the for mean with a trouble-free grant. but it will come as no suronse to see him back to his best with Torry McCov box

		
3	.00	MANNY BERNSTEIN TRADE DIVISION HANDICAP HUR- DLE (CLASS B) £7,500 2m 110yds Penaity Value £5,235
1	P1/200	TIBETAN (10) (D) (Mrs Wendy Brown) Lady Harnes 5 12 0
2		SHEMING EDGE (18) (CD) (BF) (G Graham) T Easterby 6 11 4L Wyer
3		CALILICER (24) (D) (T A Barnes) M Barnes 5 11 3
4		STASH THE CASH (17) (D) (G Shiel) M Herrmond 7 to 1 R Gentley
5		MORE DASH THANCASH (\$53) (CD) (F J Sensbury) Mrs M Jones 8 10 12_A P McCoy
6	112-27	NORDANCE PRINCE (5) (D) (Pinks Gym) Miss V Williams 7 10 7
7	300PP-	ELPIDOS (366) (D) (Mrs Margi Winter) M Hammond 6 10 2
8	21-030	FAIRLY SHARP (73) (D) (Ms Cardine F Breay) J Made 5 10 0

2-100 Faint Street (3) to year colorer (-20) to year colorer (-20) to the first of the first of

1997: Shiring Edge 5 Ti 3 B Fermon 7-2 () Examply is an FORM GLRDE NORDANCE PRINCE, who goes well on a fast surface, is given the nod over Cauliter and Tilbetan. Nordance Prince defled a hefry weight in game style at Sandown on Friday and goes unpensited. He had earlier run second to Flying instructor on his chasing debut at Haydock on his first appearance since a Rowcester second to Jamaican Fight in May, so is tikely to progress. Cauliter has hed a cracking season and was highly impressive in scoring for the third time in his last four starts when coming home by a comfortable four lengths from Lady Daley (third in The Ladbroke) when getting lumps of weight at Ayr However, that and all his other wins have been with give in the ground and it remains to be seen if he is as effective on good to firm. He is also 7th higher than at Apcreamber in the consecutive wins at Huntingdon in November and at Chalitenham at Apcreamber in Solowing with a good second to Severus at Kempton and he was only five langths off the winner when severall to Graphic Equaliser in The Ladbroke at Leopardstown. However, Thotan (in first-time binkers today) was a long way back behind Sharpical in the Tote Gold Trophy tast time and, on a line through Lady Daley, is held by Cauliter. More Dash Thancash lices tast ground and was completing a hast-tick when scoring easily or course and distance in March. He has not been out since a 12-langth severith in the imperial Cup a week later – Shaning Edge 20 lengths admit – but is tilely to be fit enough and Tony McCoy is booked.

4.00 BERNSTEIN 21ST ANNIVERSARY NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (E) £4,200 2m 3f 110yds Penaity Value £3,496

— 12 declared — 10th. Another Comedy & Triona's Hope 8st 8st. Element Of Reis 8st 50, Maling Brook 8st 3th, Another Comedy & Triona's Hope 8st 8st. Element Of Reis 8st 5th, Maling Brook 8st 3th, Antherlydus & Sophies Onesm 8st 12th, BETTINGS 3-1 Desert Brave, 4-1 Zaitoon, 9-2 Glamenglitz, 5-1 Jolly Heart, 10-1 Tweedswood, Element Of Risk, Milling Brook, 20-1 others
1997 Noyan 7 12 0 P Niven 6-4 Izu (R Falzy) 7 ran
FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

ZATTOON was beaten four lengths by Tidebrook at Worcester in November on his return to chasing after firshing unplaced over timber at Stratford on his opening run this term. He was pulled up next time but was a fair third to Cuthill Hope over course and distance time weeks ago. Glamangilitz was talled off when pulled up before two out at Unionster last time and was last of four finehers there before that. But Glamangilitz scored by 13 lengths in his previous race – his third success at the same course – and Tony McCoy, who node him to his latest win, is back aboard. Desert Brave landed a modest heat over two miles here in December and elso went in over today's longer distances at Catterick four weeks ago. His running behind The Toiseach in a three-miler here last time was too bad to be true and he will be troublesome if back on song.

Selection: ZA(TOON)

4.00 MANNY BERNSTEIN CREDIT DIVISION NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 4YO 2m 4f Penalty Value £2,343

7 SPONDULICKS (P11) (Mrs Joen M Chrimes) B Baugh 10 12 Gary Lyons
8 0 DOYENNE (25) (Grey Mare Partnersho) Mrs D Harre 10 7 G Bradley
8 SUN ALERT (USA) (P14) (K SLee) M Poligiese 10 7 R Thornton
9 declared —
BETTING: 9-4 Silver Wonder, 7-2 Island Sanctiony, 9-2 Darry, 11-2 Carlys Cuest, 8-1 Freedom Chance. BETTING: 9.4 Silver Wonder, 7-2 Island Sanctuary, 9-2 Darcy, 11-2 Carlys Quest, 8-1 Freedom Chence, Sefton Blatta, 16-1 Sun Alert, 28-1 others
1997 Deallowed 4 10 3 J Culloty 2-1 (Miss H Kinght) 11 ran
FORM GUIDE

ISLAND SANCTUARY, a dual Flat winner in 1997, has run well in both his hurdle races
- fourth to Legal Right at Lucilow (2m) and third to Torn Silk at Market Rasen (2m 11 100yds). This step-up in trip should be ideal. Darcy, a winner on the Flat when trained by Michael Stoute, was a nine-length third befined Upgrade (three wins this season) on his hurdling bow at Kempton over Christmas. However, he was almost 28 lengths off the winner in third to Zafarabad at the same track in January, only lifth to Tyrolean Dream at Windsor and looked one paced when taking the same placing behind Beryllium at Leicester a week ago. Nick Henderson's newcomer Silver Wonder shaped well in the first of two Flat nars when second to Assured Gamble at Newmarket in May and is sure to have been well schooled. Sun Alert, who finished more than three lengths admit of Silver Wonder in third in that event, was a long way in front of the selection when taking the same position against Three Cheers also at Newmarket in May and won a Yarmouth three-nuner maden in June But she showed little afterwards and has been well besten in two Equitreck runs this month.

4.30 MANNY BERNSTEIN IN RUNNING HANDICAP CHASE

4.30 MANNY BERNSTEIN IN RUNNING HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 2m 3f 110yds Penaity Value £3,132

1 2231 LOBSTER COTTAGE (58) (Nejo-Ger R L T Burges K Balley 10 2 0 1 Mr R Weddey (3)

2 F-7932 RHOSSILI BAY (14) (CD) (W J Williams) Mrs M Reveley 10 11 8... P Miver 12302 RACHAEL 5 OWEN (38) (D) (De-Hard Recing Cub) J Golde 8 11 8 ... R McCrath (3)

4 1-2945 NLWAW (7) (T A Barnesy M Barnes 8 11 5 ... S Taylor (3)

5 12322 JASON'S BOY (3) (D) (W E Jones) J M Badley 8 11 4 ... R Johnson 5 40-12 JUKE BOX BILLY (77) (D) (BF) (K Harson) Mrs J Brown 10 11 3 ... E Calleghan P PIF-P3 PLAMBING MITRACLE (11) LI C Brackuryl G Barnet 6 10 13 ... W Manston B BETTING: 3-1 Lobster Cottage, 4-1 Rachael's Owen, 5-1 Rhoselli Bay, Juke Box Billy, 11-2 Planning Mitracia, 6-1 Jason's Boy, 12-1 Nijway 997: Over The Pole 10 11 11 Mr C Borner (3) 7-2 (P Chamings) 4 ren FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

RACHAEL'S OWEN went in at Perth in June and at Ayr on Boxing Day and has made the frame in his four other starts, running as well as could be expected when a remote fourth to Celestial Choir in the Grade Two Dipper Chase at Newcastle last time. He acts on the ground. So, too, does Lobster Cottage, who has an indentical record to the section this season with a couple of wirs, two seconds, at third and a fourth from six attempts. Successful at Plumpton in October on his opening outing this term, he came good again at Stratford in December. Rhossill Bay has been desappointing but was a course-and-distance winner in 1995.

5.00 BERNSTEIN EARLY PRICES MARES NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £1,266

BETTING: 3-1 Lucy Waltern, 4-1 Cathodral Belle, 9-2 Grown Seel, 7-1 Twenty Winks, 8-1 Jack's Joke, 10-1 Tudor Gale, 14-1 Prioress, 16-1 others 1897 Manusahb Ofesteem 6 tf 2 K Gaule 50-1 (S Golfings) 9 ran

FORM GUIDE

LICY WALTERS is the only winner in 7-strong finale, beating Ardentinny a length and three-quarters at Foliastione after leading on the bit at the two-furlong pole. Ardentinny boosted the form when landing a 22-runner race at Warwick and Luby Walters, third to Kings Rhapsody at Lingfield four weeks back, can show the way home. Brown Seal, a 25-1 thort when a 23-length fifth of 15 behind Jet Specials at Lucidow first time up, has Tony McCoy's assistance and could prove troublesome. Many Reveloy's Cathedral Belle might do best of the newcorners.

Selection: LUCY WALTERS

2.30 MANNY BERNSTEIN DOUBLE RESULT NOVICE CHASE

Lingfield HYPERION

1.15 Night City 1.45 Failed To Hit 2.15 Miss Skye 2.45 Deeply Vale 3.15 Narrogin 3.45 Gilder 4.15 RISE 'N SHINE (nap) 4.45 Thoughtful Kate

GOING: Slow (Al-weather track)
STALLS: Inside, except im (outside)
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low in spirits

Left-hand course with Equitrack surface
Course is SE of town on 82028. Lingfeld station adjoins course.
ADMISSION: STIL CAR PARK: Club 63; rest free.

LEADING TRAINERS: GL Moore 79-606 (10°4), M Johnston 51286 (128°4), R Heimon 47-339 (138°4), Lord Huntingdon 40-239 (131°4),
326 (128°4), B Holland 45-270 (214°4), J Quinn 34-627 (54°4),
340 (15°4), D Holland 45-270 (214°4), J Quinn 34-627 (54°4),
BRACKERED ist TIME: Go For Green (145). BLINKERED let TIME: Go For Green (145)

1.15 MARCO POLO APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added1m 4f

= 4 declared = 4 declared = 8ETTING: 2-1 Quiet Arch, 9-4 Sharbadarid, 3-1 Night City, 4-1 Harik 1.45 COOK LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV -SHI FALED TO HIT (3) (C) N Litimoder 5 9 4. A McCarthy (5) 7 B

pall of

- 9 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Zorno, 7-2 Jubilee Scholar, 9-2 Feffed To Hit, 7-1 Four Of Spades, Who's That Man, 18-1 Azzani, 12-1 Go For Green, 18-1 others

2.15 COLUMBUS CLAIMING LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV I) 52,500 7f - 9 declared -SETING: 5-2 Chabrz, 3-1 Miss Skye, 7-2 Lift Boy, 9-2 Falkenberg, 10-1 Mol Canard, 16-1 Super Park, 20-1 Astral Invader, 25-1 others

2.45 COLUMBUS CLAIMING LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV II) \$2,500 7f

00000 BLUSHING GRENADIER (204) M Fethersion Godby 69 2... D Holland 8 V

3.15 VASCO DA GAMA MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) 25,000 added1m 2f -5 declared -BETTING: 4-6 Narrogin, 2-1 Afa Fella, 10-1 Diamond Flame, 20-1 indi-

3.45 LIVINGSTONE HANDICAP (CLASS D) 55,000 added 3YO 1m = 5 declared -BETTING: 7-4 Ganius, 11-4 Eminant, 7-2 Gilder, 6-1 Colonel Custer, 7-1

4.45 COOK LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV 04-446 MULTI FRANCHISE (10) (CD) R M Flower 5.9 1. 2 6500-0 CAPTAIN'S DAY (J12) (CD) H Collingridge 6 8 12 __ 24006 ZAMALEK (USA) (25) (CD) R M Fixee 6 8 12 ... K Fallon 4 E 1450 FALLS O'MONESS (122) K Durie 4 8 11 ... D Sameney (3) 2 04:345 HOMESTEAD (7) R Harmon 4 8 11 ... Dane O'Neil 8 00:00 MISTRAL LORD (10) M Maggerdge 4 8 11 ... A McCarely (5) 1 55-423 SHANGHAI LIL (10) (C) (SF) M Ferterson-Godey 8 8 9 ... D Holland 5

50-440 THOUGHTFUL KATE (22) B Paling 4 8 8 T Sprake 8 - 8 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Shanghai LE, 7-2 Zamelek, 4-1 Falls O'Monses, 5 stead, 8-1 Thoughtful Kate, 14-1 Muttl Franchise, 16-1 others

In Wales rugby was part of the national culture. It is no longer



ALAN WATKINS

ON **RUGBY**

New Zealand rugby was part of Victorian muscular Christianity. the national culture.

· Just so. In Wales rugby was wise. It is no longer this.

coastal strip, from Welsh-speak-West to Anglicised Newport in the East, which until quite re-

out it to him that New Zealand in Wales - whose curates, largewas a small country as well. Yes, ly products of the English pubindeed, Bowring replied but in lic schools, were apostles of

For some reason, which has never been properly explained, part of the national culture like- the workers of South Wales (who included numerous Eng-However, it was never part of lish, Scottish and Irish immithe culture of the whole coungrants come to the Klondike of try. It was confined to a narrow the coalfields) took to the game: so much so that David Lloyd ing, chapel-going Llanelli in the George, who was from the North and never properly understood industrialised Wales, was moved cently counted as part of Eng- to lament what he called the "morbid footballism of the South."

schools. The Welsh schools were master replied that young people set up by the local authorities, us now had numerous individual ing their powers under the In- sports to claim their interest. termediate Education Act 1889. Many of them had been mixed occurred. Wales no longer has down the M4 to play the lead-

schools from the beginning. Such an establishment was among others, Gareth Davies, D J Jones. Now the school is a comprehensive. It does not even have any rugby team.

Bowring, the Welsh coach, said that Wales was a small country.

Welsh educational system, in pared to have not only a team but Pontypool – made sporadic total tot that Wales was a small country. can Church—which in 1914 beDue of my colleagues than country than country became grammar schools after drawing on a wider pool of division. But it was a concepturisk of injury to first-team playinclude the country to first-team playinclude the co One of my colleagues then came the disestablished Church the Education Act 1944. But youthful talent. One cannot al division only, though later emtheir origin was different from blame the comprehensive prin-bodied in an unofficial merit that of most English grammar ciple. When taxed, the head-table.

> Clearly a social change has coal, steel or grammar schools. ing English clubs, which was of-I knew the rot had set in when ten enthralling. Gwendraeth Valley Grammar the Cardiff Arms Park crowd School in what used to be Car- were ignorant not merely of the comparatively recent creation. marthenshire, which produced, Welsh songs - which would have have had a see-saw effect, with been understandable enough - one end permanently down.

The Welsh clubs' fixture list has changed, too. It was based on a top four: Cardiff, Llanelli, In the natural course of Swansea and Newport, A few events, one would have expect- other clubs - Bridgend, Neath,

Not only did the big clubs play each other as often as four times a year, which could be tedious. They also travelled regularly

The leagues, which are of Carwyn James, Barry John and but of the English ones as well. While the English clubs have gone up, the Welsh have gone down, for perfectly obvious reasons. The Welsh clubs no longer

After Saturday's débacle, Kevin industrialised South Wales of the Weish educational system, in pare ed it to have not only a team but Pontypool - made sporadic for-both teams consist of second, or Bowring, the Weish coach, said late 19th continue have he had a little state of the second of the s ers. They also play sides in the Welsh top division who would count themselves lucky to be in the Jewson National League

English game's Third Division). This development would have occurred quite apart from the advent of professionalism. Here, again, there has been a dual effect, both the forces in operation being antipathetic to press as hard as it can for the for-

Welsh interests. money, English clubs are better Anglo-Welsh League, divided than Welsh clubs. Who would into three or even four divisions. have thought, even five years ago, But English commercial interests that Richmond and Saracens and Welsh pride (or stubbornplay the English clubs, except in would each be the superiors of ness) are both involved here, and Swansea or Llanelli? The only I cannot see it coming to pass.

present contenders, in boxing parlance, are Cardiff.

At the same time, many of the players who follow the money to England are Welsh. Nothing can be done to stop Allan Bateman, Adrian Davies, Andy First Division (in effect, the Moore, John Davies, Barry Williams, Scott Quinnell and Craig Quinnell (who ought to be in the Welsh side) playing for Richmond.

The only solution I can see mation of an Anglo-Weish First As players naturally follow Division, or even for a complete

Spirit of the Games triumphs in Nagano

Mike Rowbottom looks back on a Winter Olympics in which the newly introduced sports generated the greatest interest

verberations were felt more interest. strongly in some parts than others. The earthquake which shook Nagano and many other central areas on Saturday, mea- edly, in a memorable tournasuring 5.0 on the Richter scale, ment. was merely one in a sequence Olympics.

And while the Games may of the scale for the British - who medal on the final weekend pushed to quantify the effects of a sequence of host nation successes, or the Czech Republic's epic victory in the ice hockey.

Canada, too, revelled in these Games, coincidentally generating some of the best stories of the event. And although the US television rights holder, CBS, lost its most potent ratings-grabber when

the US team disappeared at the quarter-final stage of the ice hockey with three losses out of four defeats, there was still Tara Lipinski versus Michelle Kwan in figure skating - US v US - to lift ratings which had sagged to two-thirds of the levels averaged in the 1994 Games.

NAGANO

Fog. driving rain and too much snow played havoc with the alpine skiing programme, where the showpiece men's downhill event on the opening Sunday had to be postponed three times. A flu bug did for the chances of a number of athletes.

But the Games eventually cohered. The transportation, by and large, held up, the hosts were unfailingly friendly and more flexible than many had

THE earth moved for the 18th Olympic elements combined Winter Games - even if the re- to provide outstanding points of

The introduction of National Hockey League players to the Games resulted, belat-

Canada departed with digof natural phenomena which af- nity intact after losing their fected the running of these semi-final to the eventual winners, the Czech Republic, on a shoot-out. Wayne Gretzky, not have registered at the top end making his Olympic and international farewell at the age were at least able to celebrate a of 37, was pained but restrained.

"When you don't win, you courtesy of the four-man bob — have to accept the lumps and Richter would probably be take your bruises," he said. "When you win, you accept the flowers and roses."

The US collection of NHL millionaires, in contrast, left

the Games talking money. Nothing unusual there, perhaps. But in this case it was the amount of damage they had caused to some of their rooms in the Olympic village after being eliminated.

The organisers said the cost in terms of broken chairs and doors was \$3,000 (£1,875). The US players claimed it was no more than \$1,000. The cost in terms of bad public relations will be less easy to put a figure on. There is to be an NHL inquiry.

The introduction of snowboarding to the Olympics proved predictably fraught as a culture clash saw Canada's Ross Rebagliati stripped of the slalom gold after testing positive for marijuana, to widespread exclamations of "What did you expect?"

But a dopey attitude to drawing up rules enabled the Canadian to reclaim the medal on appeal and wear it with pride while he was being "routinely questioned" by the Japan-

quiry here as the International Olympic Committee plan to standardise their doping procedure, which sounds some-

thing they might usefully have

done, say, a year ago. The last addition, curling, did its profile nothing but good with a series of absorbing games not least of which was the semifinal in which Britain's women came within less than an inch of defeating the Canadian world champions in an extra end.

When people look back on these Games, two men whose

fortunes experienced dramatic fluctuations will be remembered - Hermann Maier and Masahiko Harada.

The Austrian arrived in Nagano with the World Cup title virtually won and a reputation as huge as the risks he habitually takes.

He over-reached himself after just 17 seconds of the downhill, cartwheeling off the course and through two safety fences. It was a fall which would have ended the Olympics for many competitors. But he returned to earn two gold medals.

Harada, whose last jump at the 1994 Olympics had cost Japan the ski jump team gold in the 120m hill, came to the 1998 team contest as an individual bronze medallist whose form on his home ground had

Reuters/AP

The height of

achievement

Tsugiharu Ogiwara

(main picture) in

the ski-jumping,

Veronica Brenner

(left) performing a

manoeuvre in the

aerials, and Bjorn

winning the 50km

Daehlie (right,

lying down),

cross-country,

experience the

excitement and

thrill of Olympic

the Games'

fortnight

competition during

been wildly inconsistent. He was consistent at least in his inconsistency. The first of his two jumps for the national team was so awful - 79.50 metres - that it was bettered by the bulk of the Korean jumpers who finished 13th and last.

But his final jump was 137m - further than which no jumper

had gone. And so the man who sociation, defended the selection had always seemed to smile in defeat became the man who cried in victory.

From a British point of view, the Games were given desperately needed gloss by the efforts of the four-man bobsleigh team on the final weekend. Apart from their efforts,

those of the women's curlers and Steven Cousins, sixth in the figure skating, there wasn't anything to get stirred up about from a 35-strong contingent.

Simon Clegg, the chief executive of the British Olympic As-

criterion whereby competitors had to demonstrate they could finish in the top half of their world rankings. "We are not a winter sport nation and before the Games I said if we left here with a medal it would be a mag-

nificent achievement," he said.

"And we have done, and it is." Words that would have been welcome to another competitor who earned third place on Friday, Lyudmila Prokasheva. After winning bronze in the 5,000 metres cross-country skiing with the performance of her

life, the 29-year-old Kazakhstan athlete said team officials did not care a jot about her performance.

"In my first event, the 3,000m, I placed seventh and the officials on my team really didn't care at all," she said. "They said: This is no result worth mentioning at all. You are not an athlete, you should go pack your bags and go home'. I think this will be the end of my career as an athlete."

Sounds like the Kazakhstan team could do with a good

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Resort Comment ANDORRA	Area open	Last Stone	CM CM	CM)) forecas
Soldou	95%	23.2	40	80)	Snow
St Anton (Dam of new show BULGARIA	100%	232	30	220	Light snow
BoroversLower rurs patchy CANADIA	709,	52	0-20	50	Sum
Lake LouiseFirm packed show FRANCE	100%	22.2	90	190)	Snow flurme
Val D'Sèrefresh snow cover TTALY	95.5°	23.1	75	200	Filippe Such
SensicarioBest condetors in Mally Way NORWAY	100%	23.2	30	80	Coudiston
GeloHard packed snow SPAIN	80%	لينا	60	60	Snow shower
Formgalfresh grow at all levels SWITZERLAND	100%	23.2	10	90	Cloudiston
VerbierFresh snow On upper pieces UNITED STATES	95%	23.1	25	120	Changeable
ManumothFresh powder, huge depths S		23.2 200115 S			Broken doud Ski Hotilin

German strongman reinforces Cambridge

Rowing

By Hugh Matheson

CAMBRIDGE University, not for the first time, is one cox short put forward for the ninth seat on Boat Race day, March 28.

Yesterday, at the annual challenge for the race and an- a German and world champion nouncement of the chosen crews, Alistair Potts and Suzie Ellis, who steered the Light Blue reserves, Goldie, against Isis in Cambridge before returning to 1996 and 1997 respectively, join his country's Olympic prepaboth won by a comfortable margin. Whoever is picked will have a record amount of leverage to pull them along as, for the second year running, the Light Blues are the tallest on record; averaging 6ft 51/sin.

The Oxford crew, presented yesterday by the 21-year-old dent, David Cassidy, has stepped President, Andrew Lindsay, is an aside, so that, for the third year

inch shorter, although this is running for different reasons the hardly likely to be significant because the key factor in winning a Boat Race is the ability to sustain a high output of combined paign has become. power from the whole crew over the four and a half mile course. of a full crew, with two names As winners for the past five

races, Cambridge have the edge in many areas. The strongest man in the race will be Stefan Forster. who has given up his place in the German national squad to spend a year on management studies at

ration in June. More important than the strongest man is the general level of the group which must pool its differences and emerge as a unit. This has been a key feature of the recent Light Blue success. This year the Cambridge Presi-

them has had to drop out. It is a measure of how tough the carn-

Forster is joined by a fellow German international Marc Weber, with one Canadian, Brad Crombie, and two British Olympians, Graham Smith and Alex Story. This powerful group is opposed by another German international, Jürgen Hecht. Swedish international Henrik Nilsson and the British world bronze medallist Ed Coode BOAT RACE CREWS (Putney to Mortis 28 March, GB unless stated):

28 March. GB urless stated):
OUT-ORD: Sow. C Humphrays. age 21 height 6t 37/hr weight 8 Mg; 2 J. Reyrort 20 6t 6th 6th 6th 7th 9 Mg; 3 J. Height 16th 9 J. Height 16th 9 Mg; 3 J. Height 16th 9 J. Height 16th 9 Mg; 3 J. Height 16th 9

Rugby League

By Dave Hadfield

THE Salford coach, Andy Gregory, has denied that he has any intention of leaving the club.

Reports at the weekend suggested Gregory was disillusioned with the game and considering bowing out, but he said yesterday that he intended to continue to coach a club at which he has enjoyed considerable success since his appoint-

ment nearly three years ago. "T'd like to spend the rest of my career at Salford," he said, "I don't know where these stories come from. I'd be stupid to consider quitting after finishing sixth in Super League last season."

The London Broncos are unlikely to succeed in a bid to have their new recruit, Luke Goodwin, registered retrospectively for the Challenge Cup.

Gregory staying with Salford The former Oldham player,

who has also appeared for a string of clubs in his native Australia, is expected to complete his signing today, replacing Deon Bird, who has failed to get a work permit, in the Loudon squad.

London's argument is that, since Bird's absence is none of their fault, his Cup registration should be transferred to Goodwin, but that is unlikely to impress the League.

St Helens are in a similar situation, having signed Damien Smith to replace Jamie Olejnik. and will get a similar answer if they try to incorporate him in their Cup campaign.

Graeme Bradley, the Buils captain, could face disciplinary. action from the League over a newspaper column in which he criticised the referee Steve Nicholson over his handling of Bradford's Cup tie at Rochdale.

Croft weighed in with two wick-

ets of his own. Bowling once

more into the sea breeze, it was

Croft's dipping flight that

brought him success, as Keith

Semple prodded off bat and pad

Sarwan followed as he drove up-

pishly to midwicket where Alec

Stewart, fielding for John Craw-

ley who is ill in bed with sinusitis.

out, lbw playing back to Tufnell,

and Neil McGarrell was bowled

by Croft, Guyana were 109 for

6 and only 54 runs ahead. Sud-

deply the draw did not look the

certainty it had appeared two

hours earlier, at which time the

most exciting thing had been the

parade of motorised floats at the

back of the ground, celebrating

Mashramani or Republic Day.

looking for lead of about 150,

had batted on, presumably with

the intention of bowling

Guyana out in under two ses-

sions. To achieve that they

needed Mark Ramprakash to

convert his overnight score of

68 into a century and Robert

achieved their goal, Ram-

prakash caught behind as he

chased a wide one, and Croft

bowled by McGarrell, as he

tried to force the pace. With

both Chris Silverwood and

Tufnell becoming victims as

well, both for ducks, McGarrell

completed a memorable match.

as he finished with career-best

GUYANA - First Innings 184 (V Nag-amootoo 55; R D B Croft 6-50).

figures of 7 for 71.

ENGLAND - First Innings (Overnight: 200 for 6) M R Ramprakash c V Nagar

Final day (1991); Guyana won tos:

In the event neither

Croft to get at least 50.

Earlier, England ideally

When Travis Dowlin was

Eight runs later, Ramnaresh

to short leg.

took the catch.

England progress without Gough

Derek Pringle reports from Georgetown

Guyana 184 & 109-6 England 239

INJURIES and draws are two of the immutable downsides of cricket, and England looked like being the victims of both yesterday, as news of Darren Gough's decision to remain at Georgetown, where his teammates attempted to force victory on the final day of their game

Gough, who withdrew from the tour party to have surgery on his left hamstring tendon. had been hoping to be fit for the latter half of the tour. Instead, he has decided to remain at home in order to continue with a rehabilitation programme aimed at making bim fully fit for the start of the season.

Speaking yesterday, the chairman of selectors. David Graveney, said: "We have tried to keep the way open for Darren to join the tour for as long as possible, but after a lay-off of this length and with an intensive international programme over the next 12 rush him back.

"Darren remains very much a key player in our long-term plans and, being positive about his lay-off, we are expecting it

season fresh and full of his fa- in the first innings, Robert miliar enthusiasm and vigour."

For his part, Gough, who has endured almost as much anguish from injury as Angus Fraser, must now take inspiration from the way the tall Middlesex howler, with 20 wickets in two Tests, has resurrected his Test career.

"It is obviously disappointing, to have finally been ruled out of the tour," said Gough from his Yorkshire home. "But home filtered through to in the long term I know it makes sense. With my rehabilitation going well, I can't wait for the new season to put this problem behind me and start taking wickets for Yorkshire and England again."

I/onically, it was wickets that his team-mates needed yesterday, but on a pitch now keeping low as well as turning. they proved clusive until Adam Hollioake, fielding at midwicket, caught Nicholas de Groot as the opener loosely clipped Phil Tufnell off his legs.

As so often happens after a lengthy stand, one wicket brings two or three and Tufnell struck again almost immediately when he had the left-handed Clayton Lambert caught at leg gully by Michael Atherton, Lambert, who is amply padded like the months, it seems pointless to Michelin Man, was coasting along nicely until Tufnell, who bowled disappointingly in the first innings, began to find his mark.

Sensing he was about to be will ensure he starts the new upstaged after his fine showing



Chris Silverwood powers in to bowl for England in the tour match against Guyana at Photograph: Ross Setford/Empics **Everest Park in Georgetown yesterday**

'Irish' Waugh to take on Australia

Cayard comes in from the cold

By David Anderson

STE Wi WAUGH, Australia's Test vice-captain, has agreed to play for Ireland this summer against his own compatriots. Waugh, who leads the Aussies' one-day side, will be involved in six matches against Australia A

'II will be an interesting ex-Waugh, who is on tour in India. "I know my fellow countrymen will be keen to do well against me and I can assure them I will be keen to do well against them."

Sailing

FROM the wilds of the icy

southern ocean, Paul Cayard

was expected to cross the trop-

in the early hours of this morn-

reports from São Sebastião

Stuart Alexander

et Council's development programme and the New South Wales batsman will also undertake a number of coaching and promotional engagements.

captain, visited Ireland last season and Gavin Craig, chairman of the Irish Cricket Union, said: "This is another leather in the perience to wear an Irish sweater cap of Irish cricket. Hansie against Australia A," said Cronje did wonders in raising the profile of the game last season and now we have Steve Waugh."

Waugh's six matches comprise five one-dayers and one threeday game, which will be played Waugh's visit to Ireland is at Rathmines in the Republic.

part of the International Crick-

A P Cowan not out
C E W Silverwood b McGarrell Hansie Cronje, South Africa's Fall (cont): 5-148, 7-219, 8-231, 9-231 Bowling: King 20-7-50-1; Stuart 24-5-48-1; McGarrall 402-11-71-7; MV Nagamootoo 34-9-52-1; Chanderpaul 1-0-1-0; Dowlin 2-0-3-0.

†V Nagamootoo not out ... Extras (b2. b1) Fell: 1-71, 2-72, 3-76, 4-83, 5-86, 6-109 To bet: M V Nagamootoo, C E L Stuart. R D King. Unapires: P Monton and E Hinds.

Kasprowicz added to Hampshire bowling attack

THE AUSTRALIAN pace bowler Michael Kasprowicz has coaching, Tim Tremlett, said: joined Hampshire as their over- "He will be able to join us for ground on hold - and Marlar seas player for the forthcoming the start of the season. admitted that Sussex were lookseason. The 26-year-old former Kasprowicz is recognised as a ing at other sights: "Whilst we tralia's Ashes squad last summer, what we need." replaces his Oucensland teammate, Matthew Hayden.

for Essex when he played for them in 1994 and a Sheffield Shield record of 64 in a season for Queensland in 1995-96.

The Hampshire director of ton-class howler and that is

The Sussex chairman, Robin Marlar, has not ruled out a headquarters in his annual re-

port to members. The first decision made by plans to redevelop the county elon new ideas for the county ground, we wish to see what else could be available for us." Sussex made it clear that if

members' revolt was to put

Kasprowicz took 60 wickets move from the county's Hove a local authority backed sports complex becomes a real possibility, the club would wish to become actively involved in any the committee after last year's discussions.

al Board recommendations but

a furious condemnation of cit-

ing procedures by Clive Wood-

ward and the rest of the

national coaching hierarchy

Carthy, were in Ireland. Moffat said: "Following the cuss the offer with his wife.

South Africa aim for 2006

Football

By Rupert Metcalf

ENGLAND'S hopes of hosting the 2006 World Cup suffered a setback yesterday - not from their rivals Germany but because South Africa officially launched their bid to stage the finals.

The South Africans said they hoped to benefit from the contest between Germany and England for the right to host the tournament, Their Football Association's president, Molefi Oliphant, in Burkina Paso for the African Nations' Cup, said he was confident his country would become the first African country to stage the World Cup.

"We have noted the battle between England and Germany and we believe we are a strong third candidate. We are able to offer the same facilities in terms of infrastructure and the same passion for the game," he said.

João Havelange, the outgoing president of Fifa, world football's ruling body, has expressed his desire in several recent interviews to see the tournament hosted in Africa which is bad news for both the German and English bids.

Sheffield United's Don Hutchison looks likely to be reunited with his former manager, Howard Kendall, this week.

Everton with another midfielder, Jon O'Connor, going in the opposite direction. Kendall took the 27-year-old Hutchison from West Ham to Sheffield United two years ago.

The former Liverpool and Wales striker Ian Rush has joined Sheffield United on a month's loan from Newcastle United. The 36-year-old has been linked with the coaching job vacated by Willie Donachic. now at Manchester City, at Bramall Lane.

Manchester United will be without eight players for tomorrow's FA Cup replay at Barnsley. The Old Trafford manager, Alex Ferguson, vesterday learned that Jordi Cruyff, who suffered a hairline fracture to his right fibula on Saturday, has been added to an injury list which also includes Roy Keane. Ryan Giggs, Ronny Johnsen, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, Henning Berg, Paul Scholes and David May - who has played only one game this season due to a knee

injury but is near to a return. Ferguson has, however, allowed the 20-year-old midfielder Mark Wilson to join Wrexham on a month's loan.

Police were yesterday investigating allegations that the Norwich City striker Robert Fleck made "inappropriate gestures" to Ipswich Town fans dur-The former Liverpool and West ing the Canaries' 5-0 thrashing Ham midfielder is set to sign for at Portman Road on Saturday

Clydebank press move to Dublin

CLYDEBANK yesterday outlined their ambitious plans to relocate to Dublin by the start of next season - and insisted it was their only option to survive. The Bell's Second Division

club informed the Scottish Football League this morning that they have reached an agreement with the Royal Dublin Society to rent their arena, once the home of the League of Ireland club Shamrock Rovers, near Lansdowne Road in the Ballsbridge district

of Dublin. The club made their announcement at simultaneous news conferences in Dublin and Glasgow, with the chairman Sandy Moffat hosting the latter while their manager, Ian Mc-Call, and a director, Colm Mc-

disposal of Kilbowie stadium [the club's former home] by the previous board, a return to a new stadium in Clydebank cannot be undertaken on financial grounds. Continuation of the current tenancy at Dumbarton was also ruled out because of poor attendances - we have concluded relocating to Dublin is

McCarthy said: "There are precedents for this move. Derry City, located in Northern Ireland, play in the Republic's national league and Cardiff City play in the English League." Harri Kampman has been

the only way forward."

given another 24 hours by Motherwell to decide if he wants to take up the vacant manager's job at Fir Park. The Finn, who coaches FC Lahti, has asked for more time to dis-

Flames chase piece of history

Ice hockey

By Stuart Walker

AS AYR Scottish Eagles close in on an unprecedented grand slam of titles in British ice hockey's élite league, Guildford Flames are also on target to make history of their own.

British National League and Southern Conference titles, they are aiming for a treble

a trio of Flames players in Barclay Pearce, Brian Mason and

Ricky Plant were all part of the Swindon IceLords side which won the British Premier League and play-offs last season. Flames face Kingston Hawles,

while group B comprises Telford Tigers, Peterborough Pirales. Fife Flyers, Lancashire Hawks and Cardiff Rage.

Marple said: "It's a tough group. The key for a side is to stay healthy. It's also the time when you expect your big play-

other once home and away, with the final being staged at Hull Arena over the weekend of 21 and 22 March.

2690: 7 A Sanchez Vicario (Sp.) 2674; 8 I Mejoli (Croa) 2576; 9 C Martinez (Sp.) 2494; 10 I Spirisa (Rom) 2267; 11 N Tauciat (Fr.) 2014; 12 S Testud (Fr.) 1909: 13 A Huber (Ger) 1880: 14 V Williams (US) 1690; 15 M J Fernandez (US) 1627; 16 D van Roost (Bet) 1497; 17 A Sugryama Liacari) 1488; 18 P Schryder (Swit) 1469; 19 L Raymond (US) 1354; 20 P Dragomi (Rom) 1378 GILARDIAN DISPECT CLIS (Restlement)

(US) 1354; 20 ft Dragome (Florn) 1378 GUARDIAN DIRECT CUP (Batterses Park, London): First round: D Vacek (Cz Rep) bt K Alama (Mor) 7-6 5-4: B Uthrach (Cz Rep) bt M Lee (GB) 6-4 7-6: J Siemerink (Neth) bt S Bruguera (Sp) 6-1 7-6. Doubles first round: T Kempers and M Oosting (Neth) bt M-K Goeliner (Ger) and M Tillstrom (Swe) 6-3 3-6 7-6: A Knnov (Mac) and P Vizner (Cz Rep) bt P Albano (Arg) and P Nyborg (Swe) 1-6 7-6 7-6.

WTA TOURNAMENT (Linz, Austria): First round: F Labat (Arg) bt M Maruska (Aut) 7-5 6-0

the conditions."

Whithread Race. "Wrapping up this leg in one word would be redemption." said Cayard in his last report from the boat. We redeemed our pride as good sailors, which we knew we were, but which had been brought into question in

While EF Language was putting the finishing touches to a performance which should set

them up for an overall win, the chasing group was still fighting for every inch of advantage in changing weather patterns. Chessie Racing is beginning to challenge BrunelSunergy for second, but they still face a long haul of around 700 miles to the

ical finish line on EF Language The only problem for Cayard will be that he will not able to ing to take the fifth leg of the bring his yacht to the arrivals pontoon for the presentation of the Volvo Trophy. The Brazilians have not been able to dredge out the harbour in time to allow deep enough water for EF Language to come alongside.

guage to come alongside,
WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE
Hith log, Auctiand São Schastián, Brazili:
1 EF Language (Sw) 1829 miles to Initial, 2
BrunelSunergy (Neth) + 4966 miles; 3 Crissne
Hachg (LS) + 575; 4 Swedich Match (Swe)
+5876; 5 Mert Cup (LS) +6054; 6 Tochác (LS)
+6163; 7 Innovatori Kinammer (Nor) +6504; 8
São Cu (GB) + W227; 9 EF Education (Swe)
+2193.

Yates considers High Court action Rugby Union

By Chris Hewett

Two foursquare West Country props with tarnished reputations swapped sweatbands and jockstraps for pinstripes and briefcases yesterday as rugby's disciplinary system came under renewed stress and strain.

While Phil Vickery, the Gloucester tight head, was announcing he would challenge a 30-day suspension imposed after Saturday's Five Nations match between England and Wales, Kevin Yates, the Bath loose head banned for six months after being found guilty of ear-biting, was considering whether to

Two weeks ago, a three-man name, he has not ruled out by- tence in line with Internation-Rugby Football Union disciplinary tribunal decided Yates had indeed bitten Simon Fenn, the London Scottish flanker, during a Tetley's Bitter Cup tie at the Recreation Ground last month. Their sentence, considered in rugby circles to be unusually lenient, still cost the international a place in Bath's Heineken Cupwinning side and effectively ruled him out of the Five Nations' Championship and England's summer tour of Australia,

New Zealand and South Africa. However, Yates has never wavered from his protestation of innocence and although he has now decided against appealing to a new Rugby Football Union take his case to the High Court. tribunal in an effort to clear his

The Philadelphia Eagles yesterday signed Charlie Garner, a running back and now a free agent, on a four-year

passing the sport's disciplinary machinery and going straight to the High Court. His solicitor. Eddie Parladorio, said: "Although deeply disappointed with the original decision of the RFU, he is very grateful for all the support afforded to him. He has already commenced training with Bath in anticipation a return to playing in July." Vickery, who made his in-

ternational debut in England's try-fest at Twickenham at the weekend, was cited by the Welsh management for punching Colin Charvis a few minutes into the second half. Peter Boyle, the match commissioner from Ireland, handed the Cornishman a one-month sen-

Football

paved the way for an appeal. Vickery's stand was supported vesterday by the RFU's disciplinary officer, Roy Manock, who has written to the IB de-

manding a review of procedures. As Woodward lambasted the system, calling it "imbalanced and counter-productive", Manock highlighted regulatory inconsistencies that look like costing Vickery a cap against Scotland next month when he might have expected a warning or, at most, a yellow card had his transgression been seen by the referee.

Paisley Pirates, Slough Jets and Murrayfield Royals in group A.

Flames had never won anything before this season, but having already secured the

when the play-offs start today. Their coach, Stan Marple, has been here before as he and

ers to show up." Each team will play one an-

Sporting Digest

Higgins threatens Hendry's No I world ranking Higgins could have moved reached the final in four of the

SECOND DIVISION Queen of South v Clydebank

THIRD DIVISION Alice v Cowdenbeath ----ARGE V CONCERNISH
GM VALIXHALL CONFERE
Hereford v Hayes (7.45) ...
Tetlord v Northwich (7.45).

FA UMBRO TROPHY THIRD-ROUND REPLAYS Gloucester - Extra Plays

THED-ROUND REPLAYS
Glouester v Stavenage
Boreham Wood v Stough
RYMAN LEAGUE Prender Division: Carshaban
VS. Albares, Caresperd & Northfeet v Besingstoke. First Division: Whyteleads v Billiams,
fostened Division: Parimer v Bedford Tour, footing & Mitchen v Carrey Islant. Witham v
Westdebore. Third Division: Carsbettey V Kingsbury; Epson & Ewell v Cornetisin Cassals; Ford
tim v Lews, Southair v Clepton: Gastridian Insurance Cup Iourith-round replay; Sutton Util
v Romford.

Variety Cut Pounts-round replay: Annotany Resident's Cup second round: Runcom v Marries Second-round: Runcom v Marries Second-round: Runcom v Marries Second-round: Runcom V Marries Second-round: Runcom Rid Runcom Resident Division Resident Runcom Runcom

Snooker

Football

37.0

STEPHEN HENDRY'S eightyear reign at the top of the world rankings is under threat. Both John Higgins and Ronnie pory scaving with Salford after the Regal Scottish Open.

Today's fixtures

7-30 unless stated
NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE
FIRST DIVISION
Bradford v Poet Vale (7.45)
Haddessfield v Sunderland (7.45
paniels v Ostord Unit (7.45)
Reading v Man City (7.45)
Stochood v Norwich (7.45)
Stochood v Norwich (7.45
West Brown v Portsmouth (7.45
West Brown v Portsmouth (7.45

COND DIVISION
stat Rovers v Wycombo (7.45) miley v Wycombo (7.45) counted v Cidnem (7.45) miles v Bormespecial (7.45) -

Rochdele v Cambridge Utd (7. Shrewsbury v Colchester (7.4) BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE PREMER DAYSON

within striking distance had be first five ranking events, has cut won in Aberdeen, but despite losing 9-5 to O'Sullivan in Sunday's final, he has made significant gains. Hendry had a lead season, but Higgins, who has

the deficit to 4,220. "There's still a possibility of

catching Stephen," Higgins said. "It's up to Ronnie and I to make O'Sullivan have closed the gap of 12,000 points at the start of the sure we don't slip up between now and the end of the season."

Elijah Lagat, the leading Kenyan ath-lete, has been added to the high-qual-try field for this year's Flora London Menathon. Lagat won last year's Berlin Marathon in two hours seven minutes

41 seconds - 14 seconds faster than 41 SECONDS - 14 SECONDS Rester than the London record clocked by Portugal's Antonio Pinto. The latest addition to the line-up increases the chances of a world record being set in the race on Sunday 26 April - something for WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Division: Deal v Thamesmead; Faversham v Lordswood (745): Remejate v VCD Athletic (745), Turbridge Wels v Castlem; Whitstable v Stade Green (746).

UHLSPORT UNITIED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premaler Division: Long Budsby v Desborough; SL Corby v Ford Spors; Statiold v Cogarhos. which the organisers took out extra in-surance last month.

American football

THOMAS CUP MEN'S TEAM CHAMPION-SHIP (Manifa) Qualifiara: South Koraa 5 Japan C; Chira 4 Malaysia 1.

Rasketball NBA: New York 92 Houston 74; Milwaukee 79 Cleveland 71; Toronto 113 Vancouver 105 (ot); Minnesota 113 Sacramento 95; Orta-do 96 L. A. Lakes 94; Indians 97 Pribadel-phia 92; Miam 80 Golden State 82; Phoenox 97 San Antonio 79; Seattle 88 Deriver 85; Portland 12 Roston 96

CONTROL (Bloemfontein, SA): Final day of three: Free State 334 for 7 dec and 21 for 3: Paissan 441 (mzarnan-u-Hag 118, Azhar Mahmood 11; Yosur Youhanna 54: Kose Venter 4-106). Match drawn.

The experienced striker Marco Gab-bladini has returned to his first club, York City, from Stoke City in a non-Jean-Claude Pagal, a 33-year-old midfielder who played for Cameroon at the 1990 World Cup, has joined Carlisle United from the French club

St-Etienne until the end of the sea-

West Ham have acreed to ston the 16year-old Rochdale goalkeeper Stephen Bywater at the end of the season for an Initial fee of £300,000.

an initial fee of £300,000.

Jamaica and Nigeria drew 2-2 in a friendly international in Kingston on Sunday. Rashidi Yakini, one of Nigeria's top men at the 1994 World Cup, gave the African team the lead in the 34th minute by taking advantage of a detensive blunder to shoot home from 20 yards. But two free-lick goals in three minutes from the Jamaicans – from lan Goodison in the 37th minute and Andy Williams in the 40th – gave the home team the lead at half-time. Nigeria improved in the sec-- gave the nome teach the lead at half-time. Nigoria improved in the sec-ond half with the introduction of Samson Siasie, another key player from 1994. He equalised in the 77th minute, kicking a loose ball out of the grasp of the home goalkeeper Aaron Lawrence.

FA UMBRO TROPHY Fourth round draw Dover v Barrow; Sevenage or Gloucester v Slough or Borehem Wood; Cheltenham v Hayes; Grenthem v Southport. (Tiee to be played Saturday 14 March).

payer Saurasy in Nation.

FA CARLING PREMETERS IIP Re-emanged fotheres: Wed 4 Mer: Lects Litd v Tottenham histopur (from Sat 7 Mer). The ST Mer: Botton v Arene (from Let 24 Feb). Wed 29 Apr. Chelsea v Elackburn Flovers (from Sat NATIONWIDE LEAGUE Re-erranged fix-ture: Fri 8 Mar: Doncaster v Scarborough (from Set 7 Mar). David Duvai curinates string young claim as one of the games rising young players when completing a 19-underpar 269 for a four-stroke victory at the Chaolic in Arizona, Duval, 26, Tucson Classic in Arizona. Duval, 26, has won four of the last eight events he has entered. He carded a final round one-over 73 but held off defending. Open champion Justin Leonard and David Toms.

TUCSON CLASSIC (Astrono): Leonard 5.

David Duval continued to stake his

Leonard and David Toms.
TUCSON CLASSIC (Artzma): Leading fimal scores (US unless stated): 299 D Duval 86 62 63 73. 273 J Leonard 65 70 68 70.
D Toms 70 97 68 69. 275 T Heron 69 70 67
69. S Lowery 68 70 68 69. 276 B Tway 70
68 71 67. A Magez 66 68 72 67, T Lehman
68 71 68 70. 277 S Pale 70 68 72 69. J Furyk
69 70 68 70, T Toles 69 70 68 72 69. J Furyk
69 70 68 70, T Toles 69 70 17 17 278 M
Standly 70 67 71 69. G Hnetiuk 88 78 67 69.
R Damitin 69 72 68 69. S Lyle (GB) 69 69
70 70. Orthers: 287 N Faldo (GB) 70 73 72
72. Wendy Ward won for the first time in

Wendy Ward won for the first time in five years when she noiled in a four-foot par putt on the first hole of a play-off with Dena Dormann to capture the £430,000 Hawaiian Lodies Open. Ward and Dormann each had par putts at the par-four 18th, the first play-off hole. Ward made here but Dormann missed, giving Ward the £40,000 top prize and her first victory since the McCalifs LPGA Classic in 1993. England's Laura Davies shot a 69 for an 11-under 200, and shot better than 1997 champion Annika Sorenstam, Brandie Burton and Kristi Albers.

Rugby Union

Chris Sheasby, the England forward, has been transferred by Wasps back to Harlequins for a "nominal" fee. Sheasby, who has won seven England caps, the last as a substitute in the draw caps, he sea as a substitute if the craw against New Zealand in December, switched in the other direction for the start of last season and played in Wasps' league winning team. SUNDAY'S LATE RESULT: Spanish League: Barcelona 2 (Figo 15, Luis Envique 30) Compostela 0. John Liley, the former England A and Leicester full-back, has joined the Jew-

son First Division leaders, Worcester. Lifey was one of 12 players made re-dundant by Second Division Moseley three weeks ago. Bath's former England Under-18 captain, Joe Ewens, yesterday joined the Allied Dunbar Premiership Two lead-ers, Bedford, on loan. Ewens, a cen-tre, who has struggled to make an impact at the Recreation Ground de-spite a fine schoolboy career, will be with Bedford until May

with Bedford until May Snooker

STOOKEF
SCOTTISH OPEN (Aberdeen) Final: R
O'Bullivan (Eng) bt J Higgins (Sco) 9-5
LEADING WORLD RANKINGS: 1 S
Handry S812708; 2 J Hagins 33,907; 3 R
O'Sullivan 32,957; 4 K Doherty 26,77; 5 M
J Williams 25,80; 6 J Parrott 24,497; 7 P
Ebdon 20,728; 8 A McManus 19659; 9 A Robidoux 19,532; 10 S Lee 19,434.

BADIO CONTINUS

GATAR OPEN (Doba): Men's teams first round: England 3 The Lebanon 0 (Englames first): A Eden bt M Habesh 21-12 21-12; A Perry bt A Strikami 21-9 21-8. Doubles: Perry and Eden bt Shikami and O Hamsi 21-3 21-4. Second round: Japan 3 England 0 (Englames first): T Young lost by Nakimure 21-16 21-12. M Syed lost to K Matsushita 21-11 21-13. Doubles: Young and Perry lost to T Tlasseki and A Kiho 21-12 21-5.

Tennis Tennis
ATP TOUR RANKINGS: 1 P Sampras (U.S.)
3,700pts; 2 P Korda (Cz. Rap) 3,437; 3 P
Rafter (Aus) 3,832; 4 J Bjorkman (Swe)
2,885; 5 G Russdski (GB) 2,805; 6 M Roc.
(Chile) 2,777; 7 Y Karbelkov (Rus) 2,765; 8
M Chang (LS) 2,886; 9 A Cometa (Sp) 2,561;
10 F Krajicak (Alech) 2,457; 11 G Kucetan
(Bru) 2,258; 12 S Bruguera (Sp) 2,98; 13
K Kucera (Slovak) 2,772; 14 M Philippoussis (Aus) 2,150; 15 F Mannille (Sp) 2,708; 16
G Nanistevic (Croa) 1901; 17 A Berasategui
(Sp) 1,685; 16 C Ploine (Fr) 1,691; 18 C Moya
(Sp) 1,683; 20 T Muster (Auf.) 1,611.
WTA TOUR RANKINGS: 1 M Henris (Sudt)

NUMBER The number - a record - of non-American golfers, out of a field

TODAY'S

of 96, who have been invited to play in this year's US Masters in April. The overall list has 13 first-time participants and five special invitees, including the Northern Irishman, Darren Clarke. The invitation list does not represent the final field, with six more PGA Tour events to come.







ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE
CUP Third round: Astroglon v Pruginoe; Dunsten FS y Consent Eastington v Bangham Town;
South Sheicks v Belangham Synthone.
EMISON RASTERN LEAGUE (749 Prender Duvision; Great Varmouth v Witchtam; Sudbury
Town v Felestowe. Tipting v Newmarks; Laugue
Cup seath-finals. Dies v Woodbridge, Werboys
hSSOT. V NISTOTI UNINIET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE FIRST DI-VISION: Burgess Hill v Shorshem; Wick v Little-Vision: Burgess Hill v Shorshem; Wick v Little-

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Lymington Course Sports SEWSON WESSEA ACCOUNT OF THE STATE OF THE ST Cuarin-Best: Disilery v Linieti.

HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND CUP Final according: Shebourne (I)

AYON INSURANCE COMBINATION Finst Division: Vactord v Crystal Paleos (at Northwood).

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP Fitth round: Arsensi v Leeds Utd (70). **Rugby Union**

TEMPOS: Guardian Direct Cup for Satterses Park.

Other sports

Corby v Fore Sprint, Sealant Color of C

Cricket

SUPERSPORT SERIES Final day of four SUPERSPORT SERIES Final day of four: (Centurion Park): Eastern Province 189 and 437 for 4 dec (Lous Koen 174nd, M Rush-mere 124). Northern Titans 233 and 219 (S Abrahams 4-107). Eastern Province 180 and 219 (S Boland by 148 runs. (Pasit): Boland 177 and 253 (S Paltreman 71 N Johnson 4-6-9). Natal 190 and 242 for 4 (M Bruyns 107, J Phodes 69no). Natal beat Boland by six wickets.

WTA TOUR RANKINGS: 1 M Hingle (Swit) 5888pts; 2 L Devemont (US) 418; 3 J Novot-na (Cz Rep) 3648; 4 M Seles (US) 2988; 5 A Coetzer (SA) 2853; 6 M Pierce (Fr)

Football

By Alan Nixon

KEVIN GALLACHER is at odds with Eyal Berkovitch over a red card and an alleged racist slur. The Blackburn Rovers striker is angry that his appeal to referee Peter Jones against his sending-off 10 days ago following a clash with West Ham's Israeli midfielder was turned down by Jones yesterday.

Gallacher immediately rang the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, Gordon Taylor, and is back. It's not right. also consulting solicitors about possible legal action against Berkovitch, who claimed to have been elbowed in the eye the club to think again. All I can by the Scot.

Gallacher, who is considering play on Wednesday, but after civil action, and is equally an-

TOTTENHAM have complet-

ed the £2.3m signing of the Al-

gerian international Moussa

The deal was originally

agreed soon after Christian

last year, but was delayed until

yesterday, when the player fi-

The midfielder should make

his debut in Sunday's game

with Bolton at White Hart

Lane, a crucial match for both

teams as they struggle to avoid

Raddy Antic, the Atletico

Aston Villa striker. The former

Luton player dismissed as "rub-

bish" reports that Milosevic had

agreed a pre-contract deal to join

the Spanish side in the summer.

week's Uefa Cup quarter-final

first-leg meeting, said: "Milo-

Antic, who has been in Eng-

sevic is an interesting kind of think about my future."

nalised personal terms.

relegation.

transfer to Spurs

Saib from Spanish side Valencia. have any interest in him."

pestuous FA Cup fifth-round tie.

"I am sick," Gallacher said consider the red card. "I am definitely taking steps towards clearing my name on this, I am not going to sit on the fence and I am innocent. I will miss three and a half games over this and it is scandalous. This is my livelihood. Our season could be badly damaged by the time I get

"I was confident that the referee would see what happened, that's why I asked him through do at the moment to put this Berkovitch's claim about an right is go out and settle the elbow being used has incensed score with West Ham in the re-

that I have to clear my name."

player with a lot of fine skills for

a big player, but as things stand

at the moment I don't think we

Uwe Rösler has pledged his

immediate future to Manches-

Frank Clark, who was sacked by

City last week, had virtually giv-

walk away from the club under

rival at Maine Road.

for some time.

Gallagher, an avid Blues Saib finalises £2.5m fans who grew up in Burnage two and a half miles from Maine Road - told the Sunday cash from sales of the band's lat-

> Wallace, the editor of King of the Kipper, though intrigued by the possibility of a multi-million pound buy-out, admits the Gallagher brothers' penchant for controversy could drag the strugglers to new depths.

Gross's arrival as Spurs coach ter City following Joe Royle's ar-"It's a great idea if he's got the money," Wallace said. "I The German striker, whose don't think it's a publicity stunt two goals at Swindon on Satbecause they've done wonders urday helped give the new manager his first win in charge, has with the shirt sales. But it's a cautious 'yes'. If they're conbeen in dispute over his contract troversial they could also blow

the fans first and, if they talk to the right people, it might be a Madrid coach, has denied that en up on the striker, had refused good thing for us. If they could he is to make a bid for Savo to improve the offer of a new come in and move into the back-Milosevic, the transfer-listed deal, and was expecting him to

the Bosman ruling when his contract runs out in the summer. But Rösler said yesterday: "At the moment I only have one thing on my mind, and that is the need land to watch Villa before next to stay up. I want to concentrate on this totally, and when we are in safe waters, then I will then

one of three Blackburn players Berkovitch fell over after a who made anti-Semitic remarks tackle by Billy McKinlay. Galto Berkovitch during the tem- lacher ran over to him and the pair exchanged insults. Minutes later, with the pair chasing the about Jones' decision not to re- ball across the pitch, the Israeli went down dramatically.

Gallacher denies making an anti-Semitic comment at any time. An Israeli newspaper has take this any longer. I know I alleged that three Rovers playdid nothing wrong and I know ers made racist comments towards Berkovitch, but players from both sides have said they heard no such abuse.

The Football Association confirmed that Gallacher will begin a three-game ban for violent conduct this weekend. A spokesman said: "The referee has seen the tape and the result

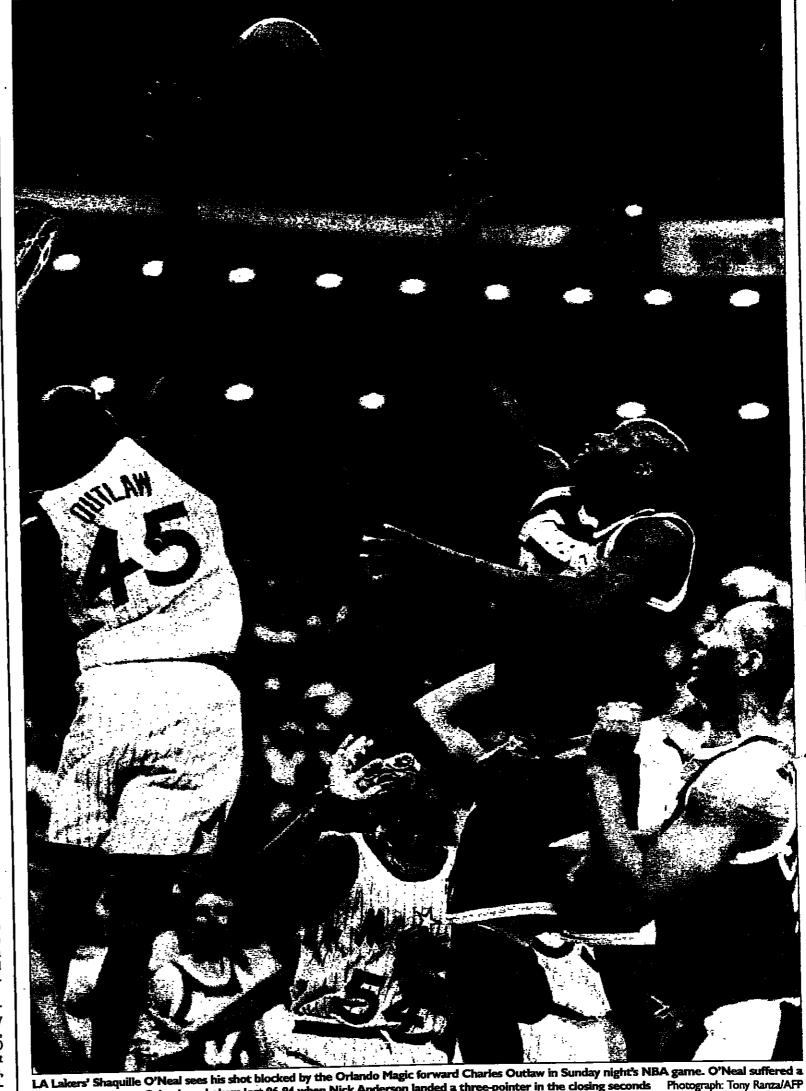
Noel Gallagher's claim that he will buy Manchester City when he returns from his world tour with Oasis has received a cautious welcome from the fanzine editor Dave Wallace.

Morning Post in Hong Kong he intends to bail out the club with est album.

the whole thing apart. His previous manager,

"I think Noel should talk to

The major shareholder Stephen Boler owns 7.7 million City shares, 24 per cent of the total, with a current price of £1.20 each. There are reports that Boler is willing to sell his stake, but there would probably be further large expenses because of the need to buy new players.



frustrating return to Orlando as Lakers lost 96-94 when Nick Anderson landed a three-pointer in the closing seconds Photograph: Tony Ranza/AFP

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3542. Tuesday 24 February

ACROSS Got letter ready to post taking note of rush (8) You'd have to be needled to produce this military

display (6) Speculate you'll get noth- 27 ing in the pay increase (8) 10 After work I swallowed a sedative (6)

11 Part of church needing new pictures put back be- 1 fore early autumn (8) 12 Is able to copy a savoury item (6)

14 Follow woman, not disheartened, for 100 me-18 An inclination for civility

one's lacking badly (10) 22 Soak gets right into place 6 of vice by church (6) 23 Plant turns out a tin so (8)

Clergyman gets hint about traitor (6) A divine finish then besitation in what must make good the deficiency (8)

They could send copy of

fashion manuscript (6)

Elude changes on school

timetable (8)

DOWN Occupational therapy re- 16 jected after some tennis gets started (4,2) Cite father over primate

To die for one is hard (6) Fool professional, entering seedy bar, to indicate 20 disnleasure (10) Jibbed at help which involves sailor's letters (8)

Reportedly longs to go after wood which consumers might like (3,5) Rate poet badly in light musical work (8)

Expert response to a group of detectives is a bitter thing (6,4) Saga about sea rising over island causing widespread illness (8)

Cheer up when about to see builfighter (8) Plate almost came to be served here? (5,3)
19 Show sign of cold knees, say, when going to Sweden (6)

Ought to carry burden without hesitation (6) European encounters rising admiration (6)

Eubank moves up in weight

Boxing

CHRIS EUBANK will move up two weight divisions to challenge Carl Thompson for his World Boxing Organisation cruiserweight title at Manches-

ter's Nynex Arena on 18 April. Eubank had been used to campaigning in the 12 stone super-middleweight division, but this time will not have any weight making problems with the cruiser limit being 13st 8lb.

"I will be coming in with a little podgy stomach which will enable me to soak up the body punches," said Eubank, dressed

in his usual outfit of riding inground, he lost the vacant tiboots, jodhpurs and walking tle fight on points. stick. "Losing that weight [last

time] wasn't easy." It will be Eubank's 23rd WBO championship bout, having had four at middleweight and 18 at super-middle, where he reigned from September

1991 until March 1995. Eubank will, though, be coming off a losing streak, having been beaten by Ireland's Steve Collins (twice) and the Welshman Joe Calzaghe in his

last three title engagements. The Calzaghe defeat came in

That was his 50th contest and his chin will need to be up to its normal strength for this 51st against Thompson, who will be fighting in his home city.

Thompson, a former kickboxing champion, is a big puncher and is in his second reign as WBO titleholder.

He lost it first time around in freak circumstances when he retired against Germany's Ralf Rocchigiani in Manchester in June, 1995. But Thompson travelled to Germany last October

October in Sheffield when, af- to outpoint Rocchigiani to reter being floored in the open- gain the title.

New proposal for overtaking lane on hairpin bends

Motor racing

By Derick Allsop

FORMULA One authorities are being urged to take a radical short cut to more entertaining grand prix racing. The FIA, the sport's gov-

erning body, has called for suggestions to make overtaking easier and Patrick Head, the technical director of Williams, has responded by proposing the introduction of a limited-use lane. The plan will be put to a meeting of officials from FIA and the teams later this week.

How Head's suggestion will be received by the FIA and the other teams remains uncertain. Max Mosley, the FIA president, dedined to comment yesterday on what the governing body considers "a confidential meeting".

Head explained: "We've been asked for our ideas because overtaking is difficult and you can have one car following

New safety regulations, inanother for 25 laps. I'm suggesting we have a short cut at a hairpin, which drivers can use, say, four times a race. If they use it a fifth time they are disqual-ified. It's a bit artificial, but then racing is an artificial activity. It would be just like the boost button drivers used to have for overtaking in the turbo days."

Overtaking lane

cluding parrower cars and grooved tyres, come into force when the new season opens in Melbourne on Sunday week, but few within the sport anticipate any significant improvement in the racing spectacle. Head maintains the problem is not a new phenomenon. He

said; "I don't think there was a lot more overtaking 20 years ago, and if there was it was through attrition. But then what can you expect when the fastest cars are at the front of the grid? "The problem is - and we've

seen it so often in recent seasons - is that although one car may catch up another, overtaking is quite a different matter. Once a car gets into that dirty air, the car in front of it loses downforce and the necessary momentum to get past. So that's why we're trying to come up with clever ideas, to make overtaking possible in a differ-



Higher

Lifelong Learning The Role for Universities

Thursday 5 March 1998 • Central London

The Government is due to publish a series of White Papers on Lifelong Learning in early 1998, from the DIEE, Scottish and Welsh Offices. This one day CVCP conference will explore the role for universities in developing and ing the Government's proposals. Universities already play a significant role in lifelong learning, providing courses at all levels — HND, indergraduate, PhD and CPD. How will the developments announced in the White Papers affect this role! In particular what changes will be needed in ersities' management, access, curriculum and funding? How can higher ducation generally develop its interface and partnership with further

The conference is for senior managers in higher and further education, academics, careers advisers and training and personnel officers in business

Baroness Blackstone, Minister for Education and Emplo

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